

THE PILOT

Southern Pines

North Carolina

"In taking over The Pilot no changes are contemplated. We will try to keep this a good paper. We will try to make a little money for all concerned. Wherever there seems to be an occasion to use our influence for the public good we will try to do it. And we will treat everybody alike."—James Boyd, May 23, 1941.

The Press and the Primary Campaign

Attacks on the North Carolina press by I. Beverly Lake during his unsuccessful campaign for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination have brought the press and its function—its purpose and its responsibilities—into the spotlight. While some newspapers have ignored these attacks, others, feeling they were entirely undeserved, have taken the opportunity to review their treatment of the candidates in the campaign and to reaffirm the press's freedom in a democracy.

The North Carolina press was almost uniformly against Lake in the second primary campaign—a circumstance that should have given him and his supporters cause to wonder and worry about their campaign, we would think. And apparently it did cause them to worry—but instead of asking themselves what it was in their program that so stirred up the press against them, they lashed out at the press, assuming that there was some sort of conspiracy against Lake or that somehow Terry Sanford had managed to intimidate the dozens and dozens of daily and weekly newspaper editors into supporting him.

The press of North Carolina is remarkably devoted to the health and well-being of the state and has, as noted in a Pilot editorial during the campaign "for many years helped to shape, nourish and define the special character of the state."

This is a phenomenon that may or may not be true in other states, but we feel that it is especially characteristic of North Carolina. This sense of the State is remarkably apparent, for instance, when newspaper folks from Manteo to Murphy gather for their N. C. Press Association conventions.

The plain fact was that the vision of the future, the ideals and aspirations (or rather, the lack of vision, ideals and aspirations) that Lake projected during his gloomy, race-con-

scious campaign was in conflict with the image of the state that Tarheel editors share with such remarkable unanimity. So they opposed the man they held responsible for this threat.

On the state level, Lake held no regular press conferences and Sanford did—so naturally, Sanford appeared to be getting more attention from the press.

This newspaper used all the news given it of Lake activities in Moore County and this area, yet so silent were the Lake supporters that The Pilot had to obtain even some of the major Lake news items of interest indirectly.

This newspaper printed a large number of endorsements of the Sanford candidacy, from leading citizens of the county, and it would have printed similar endorsements of the Lake candidacy, but none was offered. It seemed almost as though Lake supporters wanted to keep their names out of the newspapers, whereas many Sanford backers eagerly stepped forward to endorse their candidate.

The very fact that Lake appeared to distrust the press and launched an attack on it was a powerful argument against his nomination, in the minds of many observers who have nothing to do with the newspaper business but who saw in this attitude a potential authoritarianism that repelled them.

The people of North Carolina can be proud of the part that the press took in the primary campaign. With few exceptions, the press presented the news of the campaign and the positions of the two candidates fairly and fully. That an overwhelming proportion of the press chose to support Sanford editorially does not constitute bias. That was the way the editors—who are as independent and honest as any such group of editors anywhere in the nation—saw the campaign. It was not they that the Lake forces attacked, but the freedom which is their constitutional right and privilege.

Air Pollution: Now's the Time to Act

The fact that North Carolina is in an area with relatively small air pollution problems is an argument not for complacency but for strong and effective action before such problems do mount to serious proportions.

Some Tarheels were no doubt surprised to read in a recent report by the State Board of Health—made after a nine-months' study—that "air pollution is a matter of increasing concern in North Carolina."

The industrialization that North Carolina seeks brings with it the threat of more air pollution—though it must be pointed out that a large proportion of the industries moving into the state or being set up or expanded here now use electricity as a major source of power. This is, happily, true of almost all the industries in this area.

Yet the report lists property damage and vegetation damage from asphalt paving material plants, and threats to air purity in varying degrees from smoke (industrial and municipal establishments), dust and smoke from

lumber and wood plants and odors and property damage from pulp and paper mills, as well as complaint about open dumps and poorly operated sewage disposal plants in several cities.

From the founding of the Sandhills as a resort area more than a half century ago—when the "ozone" of the pine-scented air hereabouts was credited with miraculous curative properties—to the present when visitors from smog-stricken areas still breathe deeply and happily here, good air has been one of this area's most valuable commodities.

Sandhills residents, therefore, should make every effort to defend and maintain the purity of the air here and should support legislation recommended by the State Board of Health to prevent air pollution throughout North Carolina.

We should be thankful in this state that we are spared the almost insurmountable air pollution problems that plague some areas of the nation. Let's do all we can to make sure these problems will never arise in this state.

Moral Aspect of Traffic Accidents

The order by a Catholic bishop in Louisiana, denying Christian burial to persons found criminally negligent in highway accidents, may be received with varying degrees of approval by Catholics and non-Catholics—but the action does serve to point out in a dramatic way the moral factor in operating an automobile.

Driving is such a commonplace action and most drivers violate minor and major traffic laws with such impunity that operation of an automobile becomes dissociated from the re-

sponsibility for life and death that is civilized man's top item in the moral law.

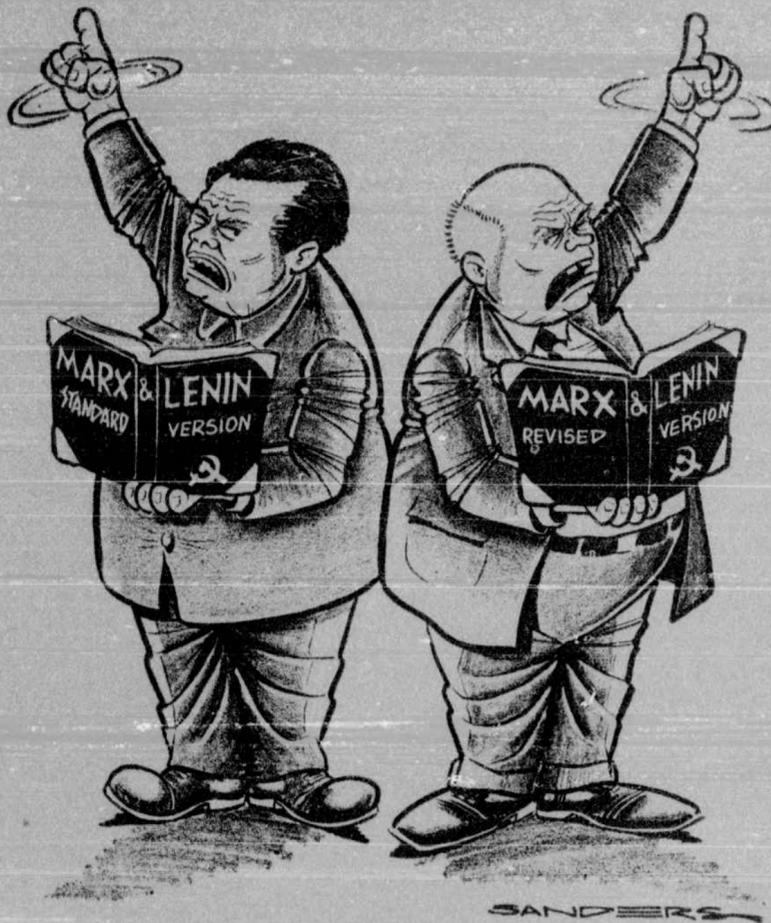
A person who would never walk down a street pointing a loaded gun at each person he passes will perform acts of equivalent irresponsibility on the highway and not relate them to any moral consideration. It is a rare driver who has never endangered the lives of himself and others by some action on the highway—yet do any of us feel the shame and guilt, because of such actions, that we would feel if we had threatened others with a gun or other weapon?

It is puzzling, but all the more striking, to the layman to note that the bishop's order does not apply to persons involved in accidents which result in the death of others, but only to those guilty of criminal negligence in accidents in which they themselves die. In the account of the order which we saw, this was not explained. Of course, actions so negligent that a driver is killed would, on the open highway, almost automatically constitute a threat to other persons on the road.

The great number of one-car accidents and the many such accidents that result in death of the driver seem to indicate that people have even less feeling of moral responsibility when driving alone than when driving with others. Many such accidents, in fact, might well be listed as suicides, so flagrant has been the neglect of considerations of self-preservation.

It has been said over and over that moral responsibility will be, in the end, the only effective deterrent to traffic accidents, but never has this point been made with such conviction and effectiveness as in the Louisiana bishop's order. No matter what we think of the order, it should cause us all to ponder deeply the moral issue involved.

"Beware Of False Prophets"



A Dangerous Jeffersonian

By GERALD W. JOHNSON

The staid and decorous city of Baltimore is not in a class with Tokyo in the matter of uproarious academicians, but at that it did pretty well last week when the learned Dr. H. Bentley Glass, of the Johns Hopkins University, took to the warpath. Oh, he didn't go rioting in the streets, nor did they have to subdue him with a fire hose, but he startled the natives all right with an unexpurgated opinion of that triumph of Maryland statecraft, the Ober law.

The Ober law is among the first and among the most vicious of that flood of hysterical enactments precipitated by the epidemic of McCarthyism of ten years ago. It was a paternal effort on the part of the Maryland legislature to protect the United States Government which, in the opinion of the legislature, obviously lacked the wisdom and energy to take care of itself. Eventually, as regards federal employees, an ungrateful Supreme Court slapped down such efforts on the theory that protection of the Union is the business of Congress, not of the solons at Annapolis; but it remains in force as far as the state's hired hands are concerned.

Hit the Ceiling

Dr. Glass is a biologist who for many years has specialized in the study of the effects of radiation on the human organism. In that capacity he has been for a long time an adviser to the Atomic Energy Commission and a member of the National Academy of Sciences committee on the genetic effects of atomic radiation. Few if any Americans know more than Glass about the effects of radiation, so when the state decided recently to set up a Radiation Control Advisory Board, Govern-

ment appointed Dr. Glass as a member, and Dr. Glass intended to accept. But it appears that membership on the board is an office within the meaning of the statute, so to qualify each member must take an oath that he is not a spiritual heir of Judas Iscariot, Benedict Arnold and Vidkung Quisling, and when given that information the Johns Hopkins scholar hit the ceiling. If he had to take any such insulting and ridiculous oath, said Dr. Glass in effect, the Governor could get himself another boy.

Triply Suspect

The wrath of Dr. Glass merely as a gentleman and a scholar is understandable, but it does suggest that he has spent so much time in the laboratory that he is out of touch with what has been going on in this country. By the standards now prevailing in American public life, he, far from being above suspicion, is triply suspect.

For he is by training a scientist, by political affiliation a Democrat, and by religious persuasion a Baptist. Well, a scientist is supposed to know something, and in these days anybody who knows anything is presumed to be highly susceptible to Communist wiles. Then we have the word of the Heir Apparent for it that the Democrats perpetrated twenty years of treason; and wasn't it the Democrat, Wilson, who lost Russia to the Communists in 1916? Finally, the Baptists—or at least the Southern Baptists, much the larger group—are so violently opposed to having their consciences bound that they will not affiliate even with the Federal Council of Churches, let alone the Eisenhower Administration.

Under the law as it stands in Maryland a man who is learned is suspected; a man who is learned and liberal is indicted; and a man who is learned, liberal, and inde-

pendent is for all practical purposes convicted of being a Communist agent. In theory he might be acquitted if he could get a panel of Ku Kluxers to testify that he is one of their own; but the Kluxers are certainly not going to testify for such a man.

Patriotic Duty

To cap it all Dr. Glass convicted himself of being miles beyond Communism. He said that if any administration, duly elected, after gaining power should proceed to destroy civil liberty and substitute intolerance and suppression as its policy, "I shall regard it as my highest patriotic duty to be subversive of the recognized constitutional government . . . and to undertake to overthrow it by whatever means are necessary in order to restore our civil liberties."

But this makes the ordinary Communist look like an original Nixon man. This is nothing short of "hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man," hostility to Khrushchev as violent as hostility to Hitler. This man isn't a Communist, he is a Jeffersonian, the one political type that is more terrible than the Gorgon's head to Communist and Fascist alike.

Oaths and Honesty

Oh, well, Governor Tawes undoubtedly will find somebody else to go on the Radiation Control Advisory Board even under the Ober law, for, as Dr. Glass observed, "the loyal need no oaths; the disloyal will swear anyway." They may not know anything about radiation, they may not know anything about self-respect; they may not know anything about loyalty—but how they can swear! And if oaths are more important than honesty, what more should you ask?

—Reprinted from The New Republic, June 27.

He'll Wave Back

(New York Herald-Tribune)

The sight of a dirt road leading away from black asphalt is an irresistible invitation to many drivers and to many walkers too, if many there still be. What scene of hidden charm lies behind the leaf-fringed curves winding away into the back country? The slow cruise of the car, through the trees, the whisper of the bumper grazing the grasses of the tufted crown, the brush of over-reaching branches, the crunch of pebbles—these are the sounds of peace and solitude. The prospect ahead is never distant; dirt roads do not run straight.

Peace, solitude—and timelessness. If there are telephone poles they are unnoticeable. This is the real wayside once more, no barren shoulders, no ugly signs, no gas stations, none of the agitated boredom of the modern highway. The natural history books used to speak of "wayside" flowers and "wayside" birds. Well, here they are. And if you meet another traveler, perhaps a boy coming home from a country school, it is quite proper and natural to wave to him. He will wave back.

The Public Speaking

Will Man Use the Atom Selfishly or for Others?

To the Editor:

A complete new horizon of unlimited wideness has been opened to mankind by the smallest known particle of an element, the atom. I have often wondered how a particle of substance so small is able to possess so much potential energy; energy which may make or break the very world on which we reside.

How does man intend to use the atom? Will he use it selfishly, for the enrichment of his own material wealth during his short reign on Earth? Or will he use it for enriching the health and sustenance of his fellow men, that he may live in peace and prosperity with all? Let us hope that man will overcome his selfish, sinful, attitude and nourish instead of demolish the goose who hatched the golden egg, for we are merely renting this home on which we live, and it, nor anything in it, is ours to destroy. But instead, as did the man with five talents who increased the five to ten, we

should make the Earth yield forth its best for the good of our Master, who said, "For inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it unto me."

If all the money on the research of the atom was put into the enrichment of man's life instead of the small portion being spent, the rest being spent on a mad useless race against never ending space and time, mankind would be nearing the horizon of perfection, which the Master intended in the beginning. In a few years there would be little or no disease and the cost of living would be split many times, thus enabling us to feed the hungry, and care for those who are unable to care for themselves. With this we would be able to set the example for the entire world and win all of humanity for the Master.

Then, and only then, will we be able to justly say, "Master, you have given me five talents, behold, I return you twofold."

RALPH C. HENDREN III
Southern Pines

Grains of Sand

In A Bad Way

The nation, according to a spokesman for the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, is in a bad way. Here's how he described these times, as quoted in The Chapel Hill Weekly:

"It is an age characterized by moral flabbiness, degenerate indulgence and rationalized dishonesty, and countered by great humanitarianism, great generosity and deep desire for peace."

There's a combination for you! Flabby humanitarians! Degenerate pacifists! Dishonest philanthropists!

Nice Touch

The speaker went on, says the Weekly, "to cite the rise in crime, juvenile delinquency, divorces, abortions, suicides, insanity, bankruptcies, drunkenness, drug addiction and the use of tranquilizers."

That's a nice touch at the end there—"the use of tranquilizers." Who wouldn't want a tranquilizer after hearing what he had to say!

What tickles us is all this coming from the U. S. Chamber of Commerce or rather from its "Institute Department," whatever that may be.

But then the U. S. Chamber of Commerce never has been the blue-sky and sunshine variety, as most people picture local chambers of commerce.

Gloomy

It's been gloomy all along. For 20 years of Democratic administrations, while the nation continued to grow more and more prosperous, the U. S. Chamber of Commerce was mumbling dire warnings about government domination of business, socialism and so forth.

But where does all its new interest in morality fit in? There seems to be no explanation but plain frustration. The Chamber of Commerce spokesmen, whose bread is buttered by big business, can't criticize the Eisenhower administration; their predictions have all fallen flat; so now they're just cutting loose and calling us all a bunch of degenerates—or, to soften the blow, generous degenerates.

Backfired

The U. S. Chamber used to picture the American people as rugged individualists who were being corrupted by government hand-outs, beaten senseless by government regulations and drained of their lifeblood by government taxes. But degenerate—never!

That line backfired and now the Chamber is slashing out every which way.

Please, gentlemen of the U. S. C., don't tell us that those millions of rugged Americans you used to protect so valiantly have now become soft and flabby, been divorced, gone bankrupt, taken to drugs or what have you.

Wouldn't it be awful if there weren't any good, 100 per cent Americans left for you to protect any more?

Romance Is Dead

If you are a maiden harboring an unrequited love, don't have yourself delivered to the door of your dream-boat in a basket; that's the moral from an actual occurrence in England recently.

All other methods failing, Miss Tacodora Egleden, 31, spent 10 pounds for the basket and five pounds for a van (truck) to be delivered to the door of Gerry Burrow, 37, her beloved.

That sort of thing is supposed to inspire any male with one whit of imagination and humor into a declaration of affection, if not a proposal of matrimony.

But all Gerry said was: "That woman has really made me ill." Farewell, romance! Could a story end worse than that?

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