

Editorial and Opinion

Voting - The Next Step

Prior to the recent new registration of voters in Orange County the total active registration was hard to ascertain. Votes cast in any given election always appeared to be small when compared to the total population of the county. Now that the books have closed on the first complete county-wide registration since 1904, it appears that approximately 9,000 registrants are listed and in good standing on the books of the 16 precincts. There should be many, many more.

But, equally important as the registration is the casting of the ballot. It would appear that close to 100 per cent of those now registered would have interest enough to go to the polls on May 27. It is doubtful, however, if this will be the case despite the heated senatorial race and the several candidates for district and county offices. Disheartening as it is, the fact still remains that fewer and fewer people, percentagewise, are exercising their right to vote.

If we do not stop the downward trend of voter participation we may lose democracy by default. Harken to the lesson taught by these significant and cogent figures: In the national election of 1896 (Bryan-McKinley) 83% of the eligible electorate went to the polls. In 1916 (Wilson-Hughes election) 72% of those qualified, voted. In 1936 (Roosevelt-Landon contest) 57% cast their ballot. And in 1948, in the Truman-Dewey election, a meagre majority, 51% of our free, qualified citizenry exercised their privileges of freedom. The strength of the United States, even of one small unit, Orange County, is the power of the people to act with wisdom, generosity and boldness. But, when a drifting indifference numbs a populace they ignore the fact that freedom unexercised may be freedom forfeited.

We are convinced that the Politburo godlings would cease to masquerade as benefactors of liberty if the 194,000,000 human beings in the U.S.S.R. had the opportunity just once, which we have every four years, to express themselves about the 6,000,000 Communist in Russia! On account of our indolence toward the exercise of our basic responsibilities, where do we acquire the right to censure other nations, denouncing their establishment of governments of the few over the many when we ourselves are guilty of the same sin. Furthermore, why are our people so prone to besmirch and vilify those of our leaders in high office. This is a process of self indictment, when one realizes that those in our government are placed there by the people, and hence, are strong or as weak as the people make them.

The cloak of voter indifference must be rent, and all our citizens must realize that every issue in every election local, state, or national is an issue affecting some phase of our democratic life.

Is Anyone Too Good?

One of the interesting aspects of the Graham-Smith senatorial race is the fact that the Smith forces are casting on the very citizenry of North Carolina. Smith and his propagandists are saying all around that Frank Graham is too good to be in politics, that he is too gullible to vie in the legislature arena with the shrewd politicians that operate there.

This is a new low in political cynicism, as Dr. E. McNeill Potent recently so ably put it. In discussing this concept he re-phrased the charges and innuendo of the Smith forces thus: "The world is in bad shape; it must be saved by morally good men, but not by men like Frank P. Graham. He's too good. Give us leaders who are good men but not so good that they are dumb." In other words, if you are really honest, you're a sucker for liars; if you are really decent, you're a sucker for crooked deals; if you are really kind, you are a sucker for every phony hard-luck story on the street.

He continues: "For a moment, think what that makes us, the voters, out to be. It makes all of us who believe that 'righteousness exalteth a nation' the worst suckers of all, for it proposes that we try to get a decent world by electing national leaders who are afraid of absolute moral integrity. If this is the road of the people of North Carolina and the world, of what use is any pretense at righteousness, decency and honor?"

Frank Graham is without rival as a friend to the people of North Carolina and the world. His re-election to the United States Senate may be the major contribution this state can make to the security and stability of the world and the cause of peace on this earth.

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Thursday, May 11, 1950

PRESS COMMENT

Smith Adopts McCarthy Tactics

(The News and Observer)

Senator Joseph R. McCarthy has advanced beyond the guilt by association technique and now promotes guilt by accusation. McCarthy's tactics have been copied in North Carolina and elsewhere and have found their way into the North Carolina senatorial campaign.

Opponents of Senator Graham tried the guilt by association theory and were unable to make much headway with the charge that Senator Graham had been deceived by the character of some of the organizations he joined over a long period of years.

The McCarthy method is much simpler. Under it a charge is simply repeated over and over again, no matter how often or completely it has been disproven. If the charge is not denied, the victim is taken to task for not denying it and that fact is offered as "proof." If the charge is denied, the mere fact of the denial is cited as at least ground for suspicion.

Of course there was such a thing as dirty politics long before Senator McCarthy came on the scene. But, this year is probably the first time that the mere making of a charge has been urged as making the charge true and as making unnecessary any effort to prove the charge.

The truth is that Senator Graham's record has been searched with a fine tooth comb. It has been searched in Chapel Hill and in Washington and in libraries located in those places and at Raleigh and Duke University.

What has been found? Nothing of consequence.

In the absence of any consequential fact in the record that would serve their purpose, opponents of Senator Graham have resorted to half truths, to distortions and, in some cases, to mere inventions based on supposition as to what he might do in the future.

North Carolina has not seen that kind of a campaign for 50 years. The answer of the voters on May 27 should be so emphatic that North Carolina will not see that kind of a campaign for another 50 years.

Local Men Get Posts At UNC

Chapel Hill — Harry Fremd of Canal Point, Fla., has been elected president of the Town Men's Association in the University of North Carolina. He succeeds Ben James Jacksonville, Fla.

Other officers elected were Bill Lockard, Hillsboro, vice-president; Harry Pendegraft, Chapel Hill, secretary, and Reese Felts, High Point, treasurer. Three members of the executive committee also elected were Robbin Gilmore, Hillsboro; Paul Goodman, Asheville, and Al Johnson, Hendersonville.



Orange Grove News

Club Scheduled

The monthly meeting of the Orange Grove Home Demonstration club met with Mrs. Cecil Lloyd last Tuesday afternoon, May 9, at 2:30 o'clock.

The meeting was opened by the president, Mrs. Clem Cheek, who led the group in singing, "Hail, Club Women." The roll call and minutes of the last meeting were read by the secretary, Mrs. John Kirk. Miss Katherine Hamrick, the home demonstration agent then gave her demonstration which was "Music."

They ended the meeting by playing games and then the hostess served punch, sandwiches and cookies to the following:

Mrs. Banks Lloyd, Mrs. John Kirk, Mrs. H. M. Perry, Mrs. John Cheek, Mrs. Clem Cheek, Mrs. Brantley Wagner, Mrs. James Snipes, Jr., Mrs. Charlie Teer, Mrs. A. A. Crawford, Mrs. Fred Lloyd, Mrs. Julius Andrews, Mrs. Joel Crawford, Mrs. Merritt Kirk, and Misses Katherine Hamrick and Mae Crawford.

W.M.U. Meets

The Cane Creek W.M.U. met May 9th at the church with eleven ladies present. Hymns were sung, followed by the devotional and prayer. The topic, "Invisible Bridges" was presented in play-let form by Mrs. Clem Cheek, Mrs. H. M. Perry, Mrs. Joel Crawford, and Miss Rebecca Crawford. After a business session, the meeting was adjourned.

Attends Convention

Mrs. Charlie W. Stanford, Mr. and Mrs. Manley Snipes, Mr. Jim Snipes, Mr. Timmy Lloyd,

and Mr. Wilber Lloyd were among those from Orange County who attended the Democratic Convention in Raleigh last Thursday, May 11.

Plans for holding the first Southeastern Duroc Congress early in 1951 are now being worked out by agricultural leaders and breeders from seven states, including North Carolina. Place for the event has not been selected.

A new type of brittle candy made in part from sweet potatoes is acceptable to a large portion of U. S. consumers, according to a study recently completed by the Alabama Experiment Station and the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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Hillsboro

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REPUBLICAN

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Chapel Hill
Farmer - Businessman - Lawyer - Preacher - Statesman
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VOTE FOR

SIM EFLAND
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For Orange County Commissioner
Saturday, May 27

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World War II Veteran - Business Man
Civic Leader
Paid Political Advertisement