

Editorial and Opinion

Politics' Ugly Hand

Willis Smith, U. S. Senator-nominate, has resigned as head of the Kerr Scott-appointed committee to study the impartial administration of justice.

In his resignation, Smith said he was quitting because he expects to be busy, but added a barb at Scott. Smith said the committee had not been able to operate because of lack of funds.

The committee's secretary, Allan Langston of Raleigh, denied this, saying that the chairman (Smith) had kept the committee from working.

The governor's office said the committee never was supposed to have any appropriation; that it's members were appointed because they were believed to be "public-spirited citizens" who could afford to come to Raleigh and make the study at their own expense.

The reason for this committee's failure to achieve even a modicum of results can be laid to one thing, apparently, politics. We hope the high purpose for which the committee was conceived can still be accomplished and that the Governor's choice for a new leader, in the light of previous experience, will be a more happy one.

Forethought Vs. Afterthought

Approach of the opening date, around the first of September, for schools in the State should, The News And Observer reminds us, prompt the State Highway and Public Works Commission to check school bus routes for highway obstructions.

The cruel lesson taught by the Nash County accident in which seven children died last year should give impetus to a careful survey of the condition of the roads as well as undergrowth beside them. Weeds as well as flowers, burgeon in summer growth, and all possible hazards should be removed before school doors open again.

There was a burst of activity in North Carolina following the Nash County accident both in clearing roadsides and inspecting school buses. Such activity should not wait now until another accident occurs. The time to be sure about the safety of the roads and the buses for the traveling children is now when they are preparing to use both again.

This is a policy the Highway Commission might well apply in other phases of its activities also. We have in mind the recent reply received by our Board of Commissioners to a request from that body that a caution light or other similar speed deterrent be placed on Highway 70 at the intersection of Highway 86 near Hillsboro. Replied the Highway Commission in effect: "We will keep a count on accidents at this point and if there are enough to warrant it, we'll take some action."

Such a policy, in its best light, can be said to be a costly one. When the lives of citizens are involved, it can often be tragic. In no place more than the field of safety does a "stitch in time save nine." It's a late date to put up signals after a fatal accident.

Lesson In Accuracy

The Greensboro Daily News has this to say about "Mr. Yates and National Defense," about which all the state papers have made much during the past week.

The Rev. David W. Yates, rector of the Episcopal Church at Chapel Hill, has been preaching pacifism from his pulpit. For this he has been taken to task by Congressman Carl Durham.

The Raleigh News and Observer wants to know what a Baptist Congressman has to do with censuring an Episcopal preacher.

"Well, the fact that the preacher is a fellow townsman may give the congressman some right to express an adverse opinion."

"We think Mr. Yates has a right to say what he thinks. If a preacher can't be a pacifist, we don't know who can be. We agree with Bishop Penick when he says that Mr. Yates has "the courage of his convictions. He is entitled to speak his mind." That is freedom of speech and freedom of religion.

"We also think Congressman Durham has a right to say what he thinks of Mr. Yates."

"But we doubt whether Mr. Yates has a right to offer his parishioners with blanks so that they can register as conscientious objectors. Maybe he has, but this is not an expression of opinion but an act which comes within measurable distance of interfering with this country's defense effort. Let us hope, for the sake of the religion and the civilization of which Mr. Yates is a member, that his parishioners show more sense in rejecting the offer than their pastor did in making it."

Now, if that is the last word re the subject a hand, it will be all right with us. Congressman Durham immediately followed up the Washington reporter's story with an emphatic denial that he ever made such statements as were attributed to him. Thus, we find that more accuracy by reporters, general and particular, can often prevent a lot of hullabaloo and we hope the lesson herein contained will not be entirely lost, even on us.

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KEVIN J. HAMLIN Editor and Publisher

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PRESS COMMENT

To Smoke, Or Not To Smoke?

HERE'S YOUR PROOF

The Moore County News. From a picture in the Stanly News-Press we get irrefutable proof that smoking black cigars and never marrying is the road to long life. The picture shows Uncle Buck Spence of New London. He stands erect, had a big black cigar in his mouth, has never worked hard, does what he pleases, and is 94 years old. Isn't that good evidence of the value of tobacco, strong tobacco and bachelorhood? Of course it is.

But hold on. There are two sides to every question. Standing beside Uncle Buck is neighbor Andy Lipe. He is 95. He is married, has worked hard, and has never used tobacco. Doesn't his record show that if a man wants to live long he should get married, work hard, but never touch the filthy weed? It sure does. Take your choice, and look Father Time straight in the eye.

THE TENTH LARGEST STATE

The Anderson (S. C.) Independent.

It comes as no great surprise to those of us who watched North Carolina's steady growth of an all-round nature to find that the new census report shows it to be the tenth largest state in population. With a total count of more than four million, it is only slightly smaller than New Jersey.

This may be all the more surprising to observers in other parts of the country who note that the Tar Heel state does not have a "large" city on its list. Charlotte, with about 135,000 population, is the biggest municipality.

But North Carolina does have an uncommon lot of good-sized towns, which, added together make up a big population. You have only to drive through North Carolina from any direction to see these towns. Go up Route 29, for instance, and after you cross the state line at Grover, there is a steady procession of towns and cities such as Kings Mountain, Bessemer City, Gastonia, Belmont, Charlotte, Concord, Kannapolis, Salisbury, Spencer, Lexington, High Point, Greensboro, Reidsville and so on.

These towns and cities almost run into one another. Their populations have spread beyond the incorporated zones where there is more room for living than in restricted residential blocks. Automobiles have brought about this decentralization of towns and mill villages, all for the good.

Thus, while there are no overwhelmingly large cities in our sister state, there are many small and good-sized ones. Mostly they are well balanced in industry and agriculture and in tourist attraction. The state of South Carolina has had a healthy population increase. Our state is doing all right, too.

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To Him Who Waits



Capitol Reporter

(Continued from Page 1)

Incidentally, a rumor keeps popping up here that Charley Johnson is aiming to run again for governor in 1952. The ex-state treasurer who got his lumps from Kerr Scott has moved to Charlotte and some folks are claiming he now is eligible as a candidate from the west. It's reported here that the conservative "Oud Guard" is inclined to favor Charley. But a one-time loser has a hard row to hoe. O. Max Gardner of Shelby was the only man to do the trick in modern times. Cam Morrison of Charlotte whipped Gardner in 1920, but Gardner announced in 1928 and was unopposed by another Democrat. Gardner is the only one-time loser ever to make the grade, and also is the only ex-lieutenant-governor ever to be elected governor.

There's a good chance the vari-

ous Rural Electrification Authorities in North Carolina will organize themselves a state-wide association this fall. They already are thinking about pooling funds to buy a high tent to take around from place to place for various REA meetings.

In talking to Colonel Thomas Upton, new State Selective Service boss, Governor Scott said he wanted politics kept out of Selective Service in North Carolina. The governor again said he would not ask deferment for any State employee.

You might be interested to know that occupational deferments are not expected to enter the picture until the draft tempo is stepped up. chairman of a county board of commissioners, showing them just how it's done.

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