SIMONS DEFENDS ELECTIONS assertion—on page 1, lines 28-3

To the Editor:

As is well known to all people your column entitled "Letters to to register and vote." Except the Editor," I have during Novem- for the substitution of "believe" ber and December, 1960 censured for "subscribed to the view," you the Orange County Board of Elec- have correctly quoted the words tions on several occasions. My present purpose is, however, to defend that group-and, especially, represented by the three dots beits Secretary, Clyde C. Carteragainst the attack made in the editorial "The board protesteth too much about this!" in Section III, p. 1-2 of the Dec. 15, 1960 is maining in Orange County from sue of your newspaper.

In the first place, you are error in declaring-on page 1, lines 5-6 definition, it becomes clear that the above-cited article-that "the Board's spokesman" had written "to the county commissioners" concerning the eligiblity of U.N.C. students to vote as residents of Orange County. Prof. Carter's letter was directed to the county accountant, Sam Gattis, who later passed the missive on to the commissioners.

The frequent use, moreover, of the first singular personal pronoun-e. g., p. 2, line 35 of Carter's communication, "It is my considered judgment"; ibid., p. 3, line 3, "I have given considerable thought to this matter"; ibid., p. 3, line 4, "I understand the problem"; and ibid., p. 3, line 31, "I fully appreciate the fact"-tends to indicate that the writer is, to a considerable extent, expresing his own personal convictions rather than those of the Board of Elections as a whole. This theory is corroborated by the fact that his letter is signed merely "Clyde C. Carter instead of also containing the words "Secretary of the Orange County, N. C. Board of Elections."

ing impression is credited by the will (if Professor Carter's views

of your editorial - that "the" (County Elections) "Board . . .

doesn't 'believe that only perwho have recently been perusing manent residents ... are entitled you selected from Carter's communication, but the omitted clause tween "residents" and "are" contains Carter's definition of "permanent residents" viz., "those who have a fixed intention of rehere on out." When his statement is considered in the light of that Carter is NOT contradicting himself in the sentence of his from which you quoted a portion on p. 1, lines 28-31 of your article.

It is true that just as "idiot" is the opposite of "genius," "permanent" is the opposite of "temporary." Between "idiot" and "genius" there are, however, various intermediate classificationsviz., "imbecile." "moron." "dull normal," "normal," "bright," "very bright," and "gifted." There is, in much the same way, a middle ground between "temporary" and "permanent."

Consider, for instance, the case of a male married student who plans to remain at the University for seven or eight years (in order to complete both undergraduate and profesional training), pays poll taxes and personal property taxes both to Orange County and to the Town of Chapel Hill, and uses N. C. state and Chapel Hill town licenses on his automobile but does not expect to remain here after the completion of his scholastic work.

Even though he is not a per-In the second place, a mislead- manent resident of Chapel Hill, he

a resident of this town-provided, of course, that: (I) he is a United law'?" States citizen; (II) he is properly registered; (III) he is (chronologically) at least twenty-one years old on the day set for the election for will reach that age on the day immediately following the election; (IV) he is (in the opinion of the election officials) of sound mind; and (V) any rights of citizenship he may have lost-because of conviction of, or confession to, a felony-have been restored. (It is taken for granted that if he could not pass the literacy test with ease, he would not have succeeded in obtaining the right to enroll at the University.)

Carter's attitude in this matter is actually more liberal than that of Henry W. Lewis, of the Institute of Government. In his Primary and General Election Laws and Procedures (1960), p. 20, lines 8-16, Mr. Lewis specifically avers: a. If a person leaves his home and goes into another state or precinct in this state for temporary purposes only with the intention of returning, he is not considered to have lost his residence in the precinct from which he left, ORDINARILY, A COLLEGE STUDENT FALLS INTO THIS CATEGORY." (capitalization mine).

"b. If a person comes into any precinct in this state for temporary purposes only, without the intention of making that precinct his PERMANENT" (capitalization mine) "place of abode, he is not considered to have gained a residence there."

In the third place, your assertion-on p. 1, lines 40-41 and p. 2: line 1 of your editorial that "it is not any business of the County Board of Elections who it is that votes in any election so long as that person qualifies within the law" is beside the point. No one has questioned the truth of the statement quoted in the sentence immediately preceding this one. The very thing that Professor Carter is endeavoring to ascertain is "WHO DOES 'qualify within the

prevail) be permitted to vote as THE NEWS-THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1960 SEC. II, PAGE 3

There are undoubtedly-as you allege on page 2, lines 2-5 of your article-"some University students who can meet the legal requirement to vote in Chapel Hill but could not conceivably qualify anywhere else. Carter's communication does not, however, contain anything tending to indicate that he denies that there are such students. (Whether or not you are

CONTROL VALLET

also correct in your allegation that "many of the 900 in question are in this category" is a matter of opinion, and it would probably be difficult to determine objectively whether or not you are right about this.)

> Very truly yours, Manning A. Simons Chapel Hill

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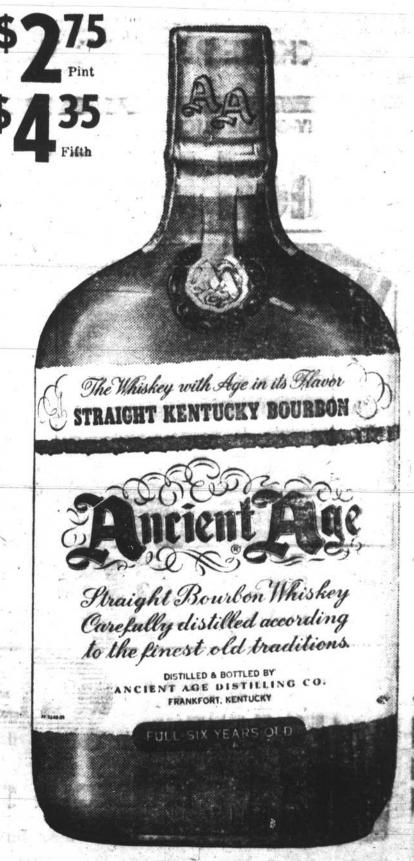


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