

The News of Orange County

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Voter loyalty oath is wrong

It is quite appropriate that one of the state's more ambitious and alert young politicians has filed a lawsuit to eliminate some of the inappropriate politics in a citizen's right to vote.

Republican legislator Bill Osteen of Greensboro now seeks by court decree to have the "loyalty oath" removed for an individual voter who wants to change his party affiliation. As the law now stands a Republican who decides to switch to the Democratic party (or vice versa) must upon re-registering take an oath to support with his vote the nominees of his new party. Of course the oath is impossible to enforce. But it is quite understandable that this oath violates the conscience of an individual voter.

Give substance to effort . . .

It is good that a politician is the one seeking to eliminate this requirement, for his action will give additional substance to the effort. The law, if eliminated, will affect all political parties equally. There will be Republi-

cans who choose to become Democrats, too. And attorney Osteen's effort will give renegade Democrats — such as the one in whose name he is filing the suit — the opportunity to reject nominees of the Republican new party, as well.

There is indeed a good point and a different point in a loyalty requirement as a party rule for the officers of the party itself. Any person who willingly accepts a leadership role in a political organization should, quite understandably, be required to abide by majority decisions of his party. If he does not want to do this, he can simply resign his office and then be free.

But the situation is entirely different for the individual voter as a member of a political party. To require as an oath a loyalty pledge for him is to invade the sanctity of the ballot box. The cause of the Republican and Democratic parties alike, and the cause of good representative government, too, will be advanced if this law can be struck down.

Treaty tests faith of U.S.

A significant test of the good faith of America now faces the United States Senate. In the pertinent words of President Kennedy, the "journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step" — a step toward nuclear disarmament.

For more than a decade Soviet Russia has balked at American proposals for a nuclear test suspension treaty. The agreement now approved is substantially an American one. In providing for the ending of above-ground bomb testing it does not necessarily assure peaceful coexistence. And it does not offer assurance of the end of preparations for nuclear war.

But it does offer a great deal more prospect of this than anything to date. Here is the first tangible agreement on this issue since nuclear war prospects became so vivid with the destruction of Hiroshima. And it is certain that further progress toward the end of the arms race and the attainment of lasting peace will not be possible without

accord on at least an issue such as this.

Risk is admitted . . .

There is risk in making this pact, and in abiding by it as this country will naturally do. Still, the risk of deception and violation within the pact is no greater — and quite possibly much less — than continued drift toward war in the absence of it.

The end of further radioactive contamination of the atmosphere from nuclear explosions is to the economic interest of the Soviet Union as well as that of the United States by ending this ultra-expensive nuclear arms race. Both countries have better uses for their resources.

There will no doubt be a great debate in the Senate over ratification of this treaty. Well there should be debate over an issue of such consequence as this. But it is difficult to imagine any outcome of the debate, except ratification of this all-significant "first step."

N. C. Fund a far-sighted plan

An extraordinary approach to relieving poverty and unemployment in this state is embodied in the newly-organized North Carolina Fund.

A closely-coordinated organization run as a private operation but with state endorsement at the highest level will act as a wholesaler in dispensing funds to North Carolina's problems on a mountains-to-sea basis.

The North Carolina Fund will seek grants both for specific projects projects within this state and for the state as a whole. But its concern will always be to expand any local program to a state-wide basis.

There is infinitely more built-in prospect of success in obtaining money and results through this approach. The granting agencies will know that their donations are being put to the wisest possible use with maximum benefits likely far beyond the particular project

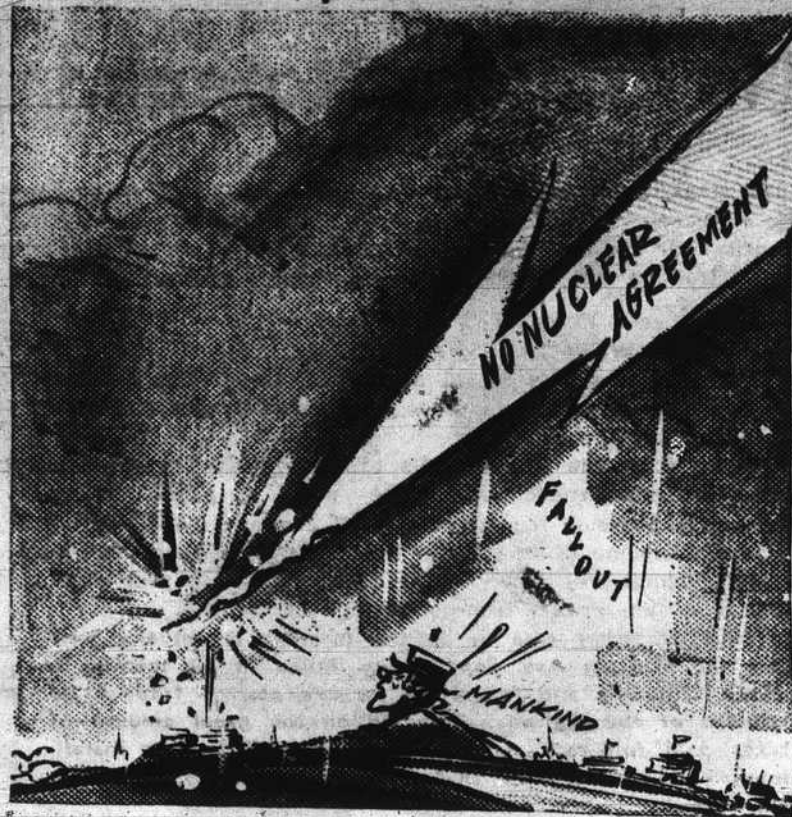
immediately involved.

Anticipate \$1 million grant . . .

Already a \$10 million initial grant from the Ford Foundation is anticipated. Under the guidance of the North Carolina Fund this will be re-distributed for various programs within the state. A coordinated appeal and a coordinated approach such as this will surely bring about more money — and, what is important — more benefits from the use of the money.

George Esser of the Institute of Government staff in Chapel Hill will be the first executive director of the Fund. For the past 15 years Mr. Esser has been working with municipalities all over the state in his post with the Institute. His capabilities and background for this new job are ideal. He is a far-sighted public servant with a clear scope of what is practical and timely. The Fund is fortunate to have George Esser as its first Director.

More than just a summer storm!



—Walt Partymiller, York Gazette & Daily

Newsman's Notepad

Hey, what do you mean when you say 'Let me give a demonstration!'

Old words take on sudden new meanings nowadays. The scene was a momentary period of quiet in the newspaper office a couple of weeks ago. The community was fairly seething with uneasiness during the period of picketing, integrationists' parades, and in anticipation of the civil disobedience tests.

A salesman came into the office hawking a new machine. When his prospect showed some interest the huckster, with more enthusiasm, declared "Let me give you a demonstration." —The Newsman, uneasy anyhow, almost jumped out of his seat.

Or a few days later, meeting with a committee of mediating leaders of the protest movement, The Newsman thanked the chairman of the meeting for inviting him to "sit-in" with the group. "Don't you think it'd be better under these circumstances if you said, 'Join' rather than 'sit-in,'" the chairman prompted.

There are, thank goodness, some moments of humor, even in laughing at ourselves, amidst the current racial strife. Meaning no disrespect whatever to the parties involved, The Newsman was struck by the incongruity of a bit of byplay on the afternoon before the last big downtown protest parade that was held in Chapel Hill.

A local youngster was called to fill in on a domestic job held by a full-time employee who planned to participate in the parade. The youngster wasn't to substitute for the employee during the parade time. The march was set during off-duty hours. But the child had to fill in so that the regular employee could get off work and go to the beauty parlor in preparation for appearing in the parade the next day.

The kid was hopping mad, too.

HOW COME THEY DON'T LOCK UP? . . .

It could be explained by the affluence of local society, just plain carelessness, or more careful scrutiny by police. But one little statistical fact in the annual report of the Chapel Hill police Department was rather intriguing.

The columns of figures showed that during 1961-62 the patrolmen found the doors to downtown places of business unlocked 358 times. But in the following year there was a terrific jump in this category of activity — an increase of more than one-fourth — a total of 463 doors unlocked.

Policemen aren't hired as psychologists. So the survey facts

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