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Resurrection City

Pessimism On The Potomac

The several thousand "poor" people who have descended on Washington for a summer's encampment in "Resurrection City" on the banks of the Potomac apparently have discovered something some of us poor people have known all along.

Washington ain't Mecca, and one can starve twice as quickly and even more unnoticed in the big city than down on the farm.

Whatever dignity the crusade might have had at its beginning has been compromised to a marked degree by recent events. For one thing, several hundred of the "poor people" transported to the nation's capital to spend the summer demonstrating indicate early in the campaign that they were trouble-makers and were shipped home, wherever that is, by Dr. Ralph Abernathy, head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, sponsor of the poor people's march.

Then, when a group of some 300 Mexican-Americans showed up to lend numbers and support to the cause, the M-A leader promptly charged that the black "majority" in the camp discriminated against his group. Moreover, he said, the black militants were hogging the spotlight, and their protests and demands were so continual and so loud that nobody else's voice could be heard.

What apparently started out as quiet, forceful persuasion thus seems to be gaining more and more notoriety as the participants become more and more restless, and more and more militant. Moreover, the demands now being made on governmental agencies are more like threats, and sooner or later, official Washington will become weary of this sort of intimidation. When nerves and tempers are frayed, there is likely to explode an animosity that rests just under the skin of both the

protest people and government officials. That will be the signal for the more violent elements of the Negro population to touch the torch to Washington, which was all but burned to the ground several months ago when widespread rioting broke out there following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

It is doubtful that a majority of the so-called "poor people" transplanted from Mississippi and elsewhere came to Washington with anything less than a major uprising in mind. Somehow, the threats leveled at Congress and other governmental bodies always had the implication that the powder charge has been set in place and there remains only the lighting of the fuse.

Avoiding trouble will depend in large measure upon how far the government is willing to be pushed before it reacts. Certainly, most of the demands being made by the poor people cannot immediately be met -- like the guaranteed minimum annual wage, for example, which undoubtedly would require lengthy congressional consideration before it could be ramrodded through the legislative mill.

Look, then, for trouble on the Potomac. It almost certainly will come when the poor people grow weary of living like camp followers on the edge of the world's greatest jungle of humanity.

It already has been made plain by many congressmen that they will not be intimidated into taking inadvisable action. When they are pushed to the limit and still refuse to go against their conscience, the poor people will be left with their most effective weapon, gentle persuasion, cut off. Rather than retreat, we suspect they will wreak vengeance upon the capital, which will be a sad day, indeed, for all Americans rich and poor.

Who's Ahead Now?

With the last of the presidential primaries just around the corner (Oregon's primary was not over when this was being written), Americans, especially politically oriented Americans, are looking to California to supply the answer it has so often come forth with: Who will be the Democratic and Republican nominees for president?

The Oregon vote is considered of great importance, for a poor showing there almost would kill off either Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and/or Sen. Eugene McCarthy. Nonetheless, if they survive the Oregon ballot, they still must make a strong showing in California to be given much of a chance at the nomination.

The political signs of the times are being badly misread, in our opinion. Seemingly, the consensus in these parts is that Kennedy is the front runner and stands a good chance of winning the nomination. They point to his tremendous popularity among people who gather to hear him speak (and McCarthy

is cordially received, too), never bothering to point out that their audiences are college students, by and large, and that collegians in general represent a point of view not popular with the proletariat.

Moreover, less than one-third of all college students are old enough to vote, and while their support now is both vocal and voluminous, if they can't X the ballot, their cries of victory and glory will be heard only as whispers in the November elections.

At this juncture, we'd rather think that Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey is holding a slight edge, although Kennedy may by now be convincing the professionals that he can win in November if he can earn the nomination this summer.

A strong showing in Oregon and California would give him a solid foundation of pledged delegates, provided he can withstand a first ballot onslaught by Humphrey and others.

"Les Soldats Anciens Never Die! Never Die! Never Die..."



By Jim Taylor

Israel Mann Flying Home



Earlier this week, I received a letter with some strange hieroglyphs on the envelope; to wit:

דאָר אױך

Being a relatively poor student of English -- and of other languages, not at all -- I was momentarily stumped.

It was not Arabic, I figured, although it looked similar. And who in the world would be writing me from the Middle East, anyhow?

Then it dawned on me. My good friend, Israel Mann, together with his wife, Ruth, their son, Dr. Milton Mann, and his wife, Clara, are touring Israel. The letter was from Mr. Mann, who had posted it in Tel Aviv, enclosing a photograph of the four taken earlier at the historic Walling Wall in Jerusalem.

I gathered from his brief message that Mr. Mann and his kin were having a great time touring Israel. He explained that the picture was taken in Jerusalem, and said he had never dreamed he would someday see the Walling Wall.

I was very happy for Mr. and Mrs. Mann when he told me several months ago they were going to make the trip. It was the first time he'd been out of the country since immigrating to this country from Lithuania about 50 years ago.

Too, his abiding interest in Israel is a part of his Jewish heritage and faith, and the trip, from a religious standpoint, amounted to a pilgrimage.

More important, it will serve, I am sure, to Israelis and others

who come into contact with Mr. Mann, to better acquaint them with the United States of America and the American way of life.

This country could have no better ambassador abroad than Israel Mann. He is a patriot to the core, and I am sure his devotion to this country ranks high on his list of loyalties.

He also is a great booster of Raeford, which has been his home since way back in the 1920s. The town is extremely fond of him, and he has been in love with the town and its people ever since he and his brother stopped here briefly, exploring the possibility of locating here, got invited to dinner, and Israel decided on the spot that this was to be his home.

He has been a vital part of the community ever since. Active in civic affairs, he has served as president of Kiwanis, and once was its "man of the year." He also was the first North Carolinian to receive the Shofar Award -- the coveted Jewish award for contributions to the youth of the nation -- which was given to Mann for his years of work with Boy Scouts of America.

I have no doubt that his story of Raeford, and his legion of friends here, was told to anybody who would lend an ear. I am equally sure that given the choice between Raeford and the prime minister's palace, he would unhesitatingly choose to return to Raeford.

It was hard to realize how very important Mr. and Mrs. Mann are to this community until they went away. Missing them as we

do, we realize now that they have been a blessing to us, and, hopefully, to them.

We wish them a joyful journey and a safe return to their HOME, which always shall be here with us.

Somehow, I hope their return, which, I am sure, will be by air, will take them over or near the Statue of Liberty.

Nobody in America has a greater affection for that great guardian of the New York harbor, than does Israel Mann.

Nobody in America has a deeper understanding of the things the statue stands for, or of a man's obligation to the country which permits him to live prosperously, in relative peace, and at liberty.

I'm willing to bet that if asked to describe the most thrilling part of the month-long trip, Israel Mann will declare it was when his plane flew past the great lady, if he is so fortunate, or, lacking that, he'll say it was when he once again set foot on American soil.

To understand Israel Mann's feeling upon coming home, one has only to understand this verse, which comes to mind from the days of my youth: "Breathes there a man with soul so dead

Who never to himself hath said This is my own, my native land.

Whose heart hath ne'er within him burned As home his footsteps he hath turned

From wandering on some foreign strand..."

Welcome home, Mr. and Mrs. Mann.

Puppy Creek

Philosopher



Dear editor: A lot of people say the pioneering spirit is dead in America and the rest of the world but I don't agree and would like to prove it.

According to an article I read on the sports page of a newspaper I found caught on the same clump of weeds in my front yard I found one on week before last, more and more sports promoters are turning to artificial grass for football fields, baseball diamonds, race tracks, tennis courts, golf greens, etc. Even the track events in the Olympic Games in Mexico this year will be run on the stuff.

They say the man-made carpet is better than grass and you don't have to mow or water it. I've been thinking, why wouldn't this work on home

lawns? I know it's a high-tone custom from the homes of Raeford to the ancient grounds of Buckingham Palace to have a neatly-mowed lawn from early spring to the first frost in the fall, and the hum of lawnmowers in the late afternoons and on weekends can be heard round the world. You might say pride goeth before a lawnmower.

But if a man could attain the same neat look with a carpet of man-made grass out to fit his front yard, eliminating all need for fertilizer, crab-grass pulling, mowing, weed control, and watering, wouldn't his yard look just as civilized as the rest?

The only way to find out is to try it. If the makers of this artificial grass will come out here to this grass farm and measure my front yard and cut me out a section and lay

it for me, I'll pioneer the new idea and see how it comes out. I'll test neighbor reaction.

If people say, "Look at his yard, hasn't he got a pretty lawn, he must be mighty energetic keeping it that trim all the time, why it's green even in the winter time," and if it turns out that cows won't graze on it and I don't have to fool with keeping up a fence, then it'll open up a brand new industry. There must be hundreds of millions of square yards of lawns in the world.

This will work a hardship on the lawnmower manufacturer, but did automobile makers hold back to protect the livery stable people? Did the students in Paris pay any attention to De Gaulle?

Yours faithfully,
J. A.

CLIFF BLUE...

People & Issues



COUNTY CONVENTIONS -- The second round in the state Democratic party's process of organization and responsibility took place last Saturday with party conventions in the counties throughout the state.

In some counties fights developed over the party chairmanship, in other counties the reorganization was routine, but in most areas the Democrats realized that they are now operating in a two-party state where the shouts of final victory can only come after the November election and not after the Democratic primaries, as heretofore.

LEE COUNTY -- In Lee County, where political battles are frequent, an all-out effort was made to oust longtime Party Chairman Ralph Monger Jr., with Trudy Proctor as the opposition's candidate; but when the smoke of battle and cleared away, Monger was the victor by a 14 to 9 count.

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS -- The Democratic District conventions will be held Thursday morning, June 6 in Raleigh at designated places.

Some of the party leaders have wary eyes peeled toward the possibility of McCarthy or Kennedy supporters appearing at large numbers from the counties where "all Democrats in good and regular standing" are designated as delegates.

The party rules call for certified lists of the delegates from the 100 counties, but in the past many counties have not turned in lists and let all who go from the county cast the county's vote. This time some of the leaders are concerned about what might happen under the practice.

BOBBY -- Bobby Kennedy appears to be about as unpopular in North Carolina today as Hubert Humphrey was following the 1948 Democratic national convention in Philadelphia. Many Democratic leaders make no bones about their intention to bolt the presidential ticket if Bobby is the nominee. Should Bobby be nominated in Chicago, the Tarheel delegation will probably object to any motion to make the nomination unanimous in order to protect the state Democratic delegation from wrath when it returns to Tarheel soil.

ADDISON HEWLETT -- An evening last week our longtime

friend -- Addison Hewlett Jr., former speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives and this writer enjoyed dinner together while the Wilmington attorney was attending a meeting of the State Board of Higher Education in Southern Pines. Hewlett, one of the finest public officials we have ever known, is enjoying a lucrative law practice in the port city of Wilmington.

RELIGION -- The Gallup Poll reports that "the proportion of people who think religion is losing its influence on American life is climbing at a rate that will depress ministers and church goers alike."

We feel that if the church is losing influence for God and the right way of living -- it is because the church leaders -- both ministers and laymen are getting too liberal and are not preaching and living the "old time religion" that you read about in the Holy Bible.

POOR PEOPLE -- We hear lots of talk about the ghetto and the poor people in the cities. We think that if some of the poor people's programs could be directed to the rural areas and encourage the ghetto people to move to the rural areas that it would be a healthy thing.

But first, you must have jobs for the poor people when they move to the rural areas, and here is where the leaders of industry -- the Fords, the General Motors, the General Electric, Westinghouse and other leaders can play an important part.

RIOTS -- France has been going through a period of lawlessness during the past few days similar to what America has been witnessing -- only to a greater degree in France.

Some people -- yes, many people -- do not appreciate democracy and will trample precious rights and privileges under their feet as swine do pearls.

When lawlessness and disorder take over in a democracy, you can be sure that if it continues very long that a Mussolini, Hitler or Stalin will spring up to restore it.

Benjamin Franklin once said to a lady in Philadelphia: "We have given you a republic, if you can keep it." And the last phrase of Franklin's statement is most pertinent at this time: "If you can keep it!"

This The Law

BY ROBERT E. LEE
(For the N.C. Bar Association)

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

When is a person illegitimate? A person born out of wedlock is illegitimate.

A person born at any time during the marriage of his mother or within a competent time thereafter is presumed legitimate. This is one of the strongest presumptions known to law, and can only be rebutted by irrefragable evidence showing that (1) the husband was impotent; or (2) the husband could not have had access to the mother during the period when conception must have occurred; or (3) evidence of blood-grouping tests which indicates that it would have been impossible for the husband to be the father of his wife's child.

A child born to a mother within a "competent time" from either the death of her husband or a divorce decree is presumed legitimate. In general, a "competent time" is ten lunar months or 280 days.

A husband has been overseas in the armed forces for two years. When he returns home, he is shown a three months old child that was born of his wife. Is the child legitimate?

The presumption is that the child is legitimate. It was born during wedlock.

Under the circumstances the husband should be able to rebut the presumption on the ground of his non-access to his wife during the period when conception must have occurred. The husband has the burden of rebutting the presumption, and until he does so the child is his legitimate child.

How may an illegitimate child become legitimate?

In addition to adoption proceedings, there are two statutory methods in North Carolina: (1) by a petition filed by the putative father in the superior court; and (2) by a subsequent marriage of the mother and the reputed father. A new birth certificate is made out bearing the name of the father.

It should be observed that under the first of these two methods a legal parent-child relationship can be created without a marriage of the child's parents.

Unfortunately, in the minds of many of our people an illegitimate person is stigmatized at birth. A social work of disgrace or infamy is placed upon him which he must carry throughout life. This should not be. It is something over which he had no control. From the moral viewpoint, such persons are not "illegitimate children" but rather children of "illegitimate parents". Although in many places in our law terms "illegitimate" and "bastard" are used to describe such persons, there is a noticeable tendency in both our statutes and our court decisions to use instead the term "born out of wedlock". It is a much softer term.

ADVERSE POSSESSION OF CHATTELS

Taylor stole a valuable and distinctive type of diamond ring from the jewelry store of Sutton on January 10, 1965. The following day the ring was sold to Webster, who has since worn it regularly. May Sutton today recover the ring from Webster?

No, Webster has acquired ownership to the ring under the doctrine of adverse possession.

If a person holds openly and adversely the personal property of another for a period of three years, the original owner in North Carolina and most states cannot bring a legal action to recover the same. A strong public policy forbids adverse claimants from disturbing the existing situation by the presentation of ancient rights, concerning which proof may be difficult because of faulty recollection and the absence of essential witnesses.

It is possible for a thief, or a person who purchases from a thief with knowledge of the theft, to hold so openly and notoriously as to acquire title under the doctrine of adverse possession.

The mere fact that the original owner has searched with due diligence for his stolen or lost chattel is not enough in itself to prevent acquisition by adverse possession. The fact that the original true owner did not know who had his chattel during the three-year period is immaterial.

Ownership to real property may be acquired under the doctrine of adverse possession, but the statutory period in such case is much longer.