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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1976

Reforming The Primaries

How to make the recurring zeal for primary election reform last beyond the election year? This is the question encouragingly addressed in a resolution introduced by 21 senators last week. It would set up a bipartisan "bicentennial commission on presidential nominations" to study the problem and submit specific recommendations to Congress next spring.

Before one groans, "Not another commission," it should be realized that no full-scale review of the nominating process has ever been undertaken. Though reform legislation of various kinds has already been submitted, and hearings have been requested, no implementation of any new laws could realistically be expected in 1976. It makes sense to go ahead with the proposed major study.

To ensure bipartisanship the commission would be appointed one-third by the Senate, one-third by the House, and one-third by the President — with no party represented by a controlling number of members.

America's presidential primaries began 75 years ago as a reform in themselves. They were to reduce the influence of political bosses and business interests — and increase the role of the people.

But soon the primaries themselves became a target of reform as they sprang up in different variations state by state. By 1913 Woodrow Wilson was suggesting a nationwide primary, as Senator Mansfield was to do in 1972. With the proliferation of primaries to a new high of 30 this year, the alternative of one nationwide primary or perhaps half a dozen regional primaries becomes a freshly urgent subject for debate.

Senator Mondale has proposed a bill calling for division of the country into six regions to be assigned separate primary dates by lot. States that wanted to hold primaries within any region would have to hold them on the region's assigned date.

This year a few states in various regions set out to have coordinated primaries, without conspicuous success. New Hampshire went so far as to adopt a statute ensuring its primary would be ahead of the earliest other state. Thus this small New England state preserves its place of disproportionate attention and influence in the nominating process.

There have been arguments for the crazy-quilt pattern of American primaries and other means of party delegate selections. Candidates can test themselves selectively without the all-out investment of a nationwide primary. Candidates who survive the severe winnowing process can at least be said to have staying power. And, after all, America being democratic, why shouldn't states be free to have primaries if and when they want to? The process may be costly and long drawn out, but no one said democratic politics was efficient except in the most important things, such as preserving freedom. The present system does at least permit the lesser-known candidates to get a foot in the door.

The regional primary looks like an attractive compromise. With a number of adjoining states voting on the same day, most candidates might be expected to be in the vicinity for comparative scrutiny on the issues at about the same time. As national attention moved from region to region, it would not be placing so much emphasis on a single state. And if the sequence were determined by lot or some form of rotation, the same group of states would not be first each year.

The bicentennial isn't a bad time for a commission to start untangling all the pros and cons before the next election.

Christian Science Monitor

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, February 8, 1951
 Highway Commissioners George Coble, Engineers T.G. Poindexter, Luke Powell and J.W. Spruill and others met with the Hoke County Board of Commissioners briefly Monday and added 62 miles to roads to be officially paved in Hoke County and released a lot of them.

R.B. Lewis, who has been appointed civil defense administrator for the Town of Raeford by Mayor W.L. Poole, said this week that a set of plans and regulations for civil defense would be made public in the near future.

Robert Gailin, secretary of the Hoke County Farm Bureau, announced this week that L.Y. Ballentine, North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture and a former lieutenant governor of the state, would be guest speaker at the annual meeting.

15 years ago

Thursday, February 9, 1961
 T.B. Lester, who will go to work Monday as Hoke County's third accountant in its 50 years of history has a variety of experience to qualify him for the job.

Funeral service for Mrs. A.K. Currie was conducted at the Raeford Presbyterian Church Sunday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by the pastor, the Rev. W.B. Heyward.

Funeral services for Mrs. Ada Bernard McQuage, 91, were held Wednesday at 3 p.m. at the Raeford Presbyterian Church.

The sale of 1961 auto license tags will go until 5:00 o'clock Saturday, February 13, at the Raeford Chamber of Commerce office in the Bank of Raeford building, Phil Ring, Chamber Manager, said this week.

'Ford is leading in New Hampshire.
 Nixon is ahead in China.'



The Christian Science Monitor

by Marty Vega

Letters You Don't See

Ever get sick of reading those testimonial letters from satisfied customers which are a part of so many ads these days? You never see some of the follow-up letters which were written by the same people, unless you do a little wastebasket raiding in the right places, as we have done. The results will AMAZE you.

More-Wate, Inc.
 Poundville, N.J.
 Gentlemen:

Please remove my testimonial letter from your files. I mean the one I wrote you a few months ago telling you how thrilled I was when I put on 15 pounds "in just two weeks of drinking More-Wate".

Since then, I have put on another 65 pounds, and even though I quit drinking "More-Wate", I am still gaining about seven pounds a week. It must have changed my body chemistry or something. Please print this to warn others!

Sincerely,
 Opal Freebish

SPEED-O-READ Institute
 Zippy, Mo.

Dear Sirs:
 It's true! You did teach me to read fast! Only now I read too fast. I read "War and Peace" in 17 minutes. I read every book in my local library in three and a half days.

I read every magazine at the newstand in one hour.

I have nothing left to read! I'm going out of my mind, help!

Yours truly,
 Myrna Snill

Wadsworth Vocabulary Course
 Webster, Mich.

Gentlemen:
 Prior to succumbing to the blandishments of your advertisement, promulgating the aggrandizement of my word potential, I was being debilitated conversationally and communicatively by the limitations of my self-expression.

However, now all my discourse is fraught with a plethora of antediluvian references, complex circumlocution, and a permeating pedantry that has precipitated a passivity among my peers and cost me their camaraderie... a resultant I would not enjoin upon a canine.

Most regretfully yours,
 Felix Muldonado

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear Editor:
 Everybody knows Federal judges, appointed for life by whoever's President if they happen to be a member of his party, have a lot of power and authority.

If a law is unclear, you get a Federal judge to step in and tell you what it is, or what it's going to be from then on. If there's some question about say, school bus routes in Boston, a Federal judge can straighten things out, give or take a few thousand kids this side of town or the other.

Federal judges, who never have to run for office, can nonetheless tell you how you've got to.

Now I'm not complaining about this, the country needs somebody with authority to speak out and lay down some rules once in awhile, if more parents had done that with their children it's possible more children would have turned out better than their parents, but there's bound to be a limit to how much power a Federal judge has and I believe I have run across such a case.

When Friday came the first week of the Patty Hearst trial with only a handful of jurors selected out of a panel of 36, the judge told the rest, about 25 of them, to go home for the week-end and instructed them not to "read newspapers, watch television, listen to the radio or discuss the case."

This may be a case of the law falling apart in the face of human nature. If each of those 25 prospective jurors was a bachelor or an old maid—wait a minute, I'd better say single woman—living alone, the judge's instructions might work, but if there are lots of other members of the family living there, somebody's going to be in contempt of court. Furthermore, what do you do if the people in the adjoining apartment have their radio on loud? Spend the week-end with the covers pulled over your head?

I believe if I were a Federal judge I'd rather stick to mapping bus routes in Boston.

Your faithfully,
 J.A.



CLIFF BLUE... People & Issues



NEW PROCESS ... As the process of setting up machinery for the nomination and election of a President of the United States begins in North Carolina this Thursday night, February 12 with precinct meetings across the state, party leaders and members will find important changes from past years.

An important change takes place at the grass roots - the precincts, where it will be necessary for any individual who wishes to become a delegate to any County, District or State convention to give a written declaration of their presidential preference or "uncommitted" status at their precinct meetings Thursday night February 12. This rule, says Democratic Party Chairman Sugg is required so that North Carolina's Delegate Selection Plan will be in compliance with National Party Rules.

Heretofore, most of the delegates would go to the national convention "uncommitted." The county conventions will be held on Saturday, March 6, the District Conventions on Saturday, May 8, the State Convention on Saturday, June 12 and the National Convention on July 12-17.

It is our feeling that the new rules are much better than the old rules which in the final analysis in many instances left the choice up to the professional politicians in a "smoke filled" room.

The new rules also provide that each presidential candidate will be requested to approve or reject those persons identified with their candidacy and return the list so designated within 14 days. This stipulation adds great strength to the party rules.

The precinct conventions are in reality a "sleeping giant" which if used to the fullest extent can add much to democratic representation.

JESSIE RAY SCOTT...Jessie Ray Scott, wife of the former governor, Robert W. Scott is considering running for Commissioner of Labor. People with whom we talk are in general friendly towards Mrs. Scott and would support her for some other job but seriously question the wisdom of her seeking the Labor post. Women as well as men seem to think some other post more appropriate for the former First Lady of North Carolina.

PRIVETTE...The Rev. Coy C.

Privette of Kannapolis has announced his candidacy for the GOP nomination for governor of North Carolina. The Baptist minister will have a pretty tight rope to walk in continuing as President of the State Baptist Convention and running for governor on the Republican ticket, and the situation would be the same if he were running on the Democrat ticket. But Privette is a man to be watched. His leadership ability was proven in 1973 when he served as President of the Christian Action League when liquor by the drink was defeated in North Carolina by an overwhelming majority.

HARRINGTON...With Jim Harrington having announced that he will be leaving the post as Secretary of Natural and Economic Resources effective February 29, reports from reliable sources say that George Little of Southern Pines, now serving as Deputy to Harrington in the Department will be named to replace his boss. Harrington did a very creditable job in filling the position and chances are that you will be hearing from him later in matters of state government. Little who turned Republican in the 1972 fall campaign and served as Holshouser's chief fund-raiser loves politics from the word "go", has been giving consideration to seeking the GOP nomination for Commissioner of Insurance, a position held by John Ingram, Democrat.

LANE BROWN, III...Lane Brown, III, candidate for the Democratic nomination for State Treasurer is a brother-in-law of Insurance Commissioner John Ingram. Ingram is married to Brown's sister, Virginia. Brown is from Stanly County and Ingram is from Randolph, both counties with a heavy Republican vote which Ingram and Brown were able to overcome in being elected to the State House.

ECONOMY...The fact that the 1975 General Assembly was over optimistic in its appropriations could result in much fat being cut out of state government. As every person familiar with the State Budget knows, there is considerable fat in most departments and so long as the money is available you will not see much fat eliminated. With a crunch for funds now on, some of the fat will have to give which can bring about needed thrift in government.

Letters To The Editor

To the Editor:
 The Raeford Lions Club would like to take this opportunity to thank the citizens and merchants of Hoke County for their support in making 1975 a most successful year

for the local Lions.
 The merchants generously sponsored our Golf Tournament, which was a huge success. A special thanks goes to Knit-Away for providing fruit baskets and toys that were distributed to blind families at Christmas.

Report To The People

by Senator Robert Murgan

cigarettes they buy.
 Tobacco products are already the heaviest taxed commodity this country produces. In 1975, the Federal government collected \$2.2 billion and the State governments collected \$3.2 billion from the tax on cigarettes.

In our troubled economy, tobacco has been one of our best performers and last year tobacco exports added over \$1 billion to our trade surplus with other countries.

The authors of the bill completely ignore any doubts which scientists have as to what causes cancer, heart disease, bronchitis and emphysema, and focus exclusively on cigarettes smoking as the cause. And even though they have decided on the cause themselves, they would earmark billions for research to find the answer.

This would seem to suggest that we can have "better living and better health through taxation." What would be next? A tax on sugar and starch to be paid by overweight people? A tax on people living in urban ghettos because they are in poorer health than those who are more affluent?

North Carolina cannot afford to have any such bill enacted into law, because the damage it would do to our economy would be beyond repair.

The six Senators who signed the letter to our colleagues are prepared to fight this legislation every step of the way. Hopefully, we will receive sufficient support from other members of the Senate to defeat it.

Local citizens have helped us through purchase of Lion candy at Halloween, brooms and participating in the Golf Tournament.

All of our money-making projects netted us about \$3,000.00. In support of Lion International projects, we supported White Cane, CARE, sent a local student to the Morehead School for the Blind and Visually Handicapped, Boy Home, Camp Dogwood and provided Christmas gifts for over 20 blind persons in Hoke County.

Locally we supported the Boy Scouts, Kathy McMillan fund, Little League, \$300.00 Scholarship for a high school senior, bought glasses for a student, and purchased a new heating stove for a blind lady.

It is a rewarding experience to each Lion to be able to participate in each of the projects mentioned above. The success of these projects is a direct result of the outstanding support we get from the Community. We feel we do a small part by sponsoring them; it is a community project that is making them a success.

Again many thanks to the citizens of Hoke County for the support they continue year after year to give the local Lions.

Sincerely,
 Clyde F. Knox
 Secretary
 Raeford Lions Club

Dear Sir,
 After being away from my hometown for twenty years, living in big cities, it is nice to be moving back to my hometown. It is also nice to know that I am living in a town which has such a wonderful sheriff as Dave Harrington. I am also speaking on behalf of my mother, Mrs. Mattie S. Campbell. I hope he remains Sheriff as long as I live in Hoke County.
 M/Sgt (Ret.) and Mrs. J.L. Nuttner
 203 Roberts St.
 Raeford