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THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1976

The religious factor

It is fitting that Americans this year reflect upon their deep tradition of religious freedom. The Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty held in Philadelphia recently did just that, providing an eloquent reminder to all citizens of their religious heritage and the need to cherish utilize it.

At a time of general disenchantment with government, flowing from past abuses of political power and encroachments on individual rights, one message sounded by the 400 religious leaders who gathered in Philadelphia bears reaffirmation: That human rights spring from the fundamental truth that man is created in God's image and likeness and therefore has an inalienable right to freedom.

As Franklin Littell of Temple University put it, "Religious liberty is a right and truth which is not government's to deny or to grant. Government may only recognize it and protect it, for it stands on higher ground."

Sometimes that liberty protected by government is taken for granted. It should not be. Looking around the world, there are few nations where individuals have such unfettered rights of religious worship, guarded by the highest law of the land, and where the state does not impose religion or favor one religious belief over another. The flowering of diverse religions in the United States as a result of this freedom is unprecedented.

Sadly, the influence of religion in public life has ebbed in recent years. But there now seems to be a turning in the general American mood. Religion is coming into public fashion again. Some elements of the intellectual community, for instance, alarmed by the slide of moral standards throughout society, are reexamining the role religion ought to be playing in helping lift these standards.

The religious factor in the political campaign is another sign of the changing mood. Political observers agree that it is less the issues, such as defense or the economy, that are influencing voters' views than their preceptions about the moral and spiritual character of the candidates. There is a yearning for a leader who not only embodies integrity (as well as leadership capabilities) but who appeals to the goodness and moral uprightness of others. This seems to be the attraction of Bible-toting Jimmy Carter for so many Americans; they are not sure what he really is like, but they are placing their hope and expectation in what they think he may be.

A comment by Jiri Nehnevajsa, director of the University Center for Urban Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, to the Wall Street Journal seems to reflect the current climate: "People are tired of being told that they're selfish and horrible and oppressors of the poor and unfortunate. There's a feeling of being morally correct, a feeling that in fact we are doing the right things, that we are handling our problems."

This is, in short, a time when Americans are reaching out for a higher sense of themselves and their capacities. Not everyone is running to church again. But that many are reasserting their moral faith and remembering the precious religious legacy which endows this nation is cause for encouragement.

Christian Science Monitor

Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan



The Far East sounds like an odd place to realize some important things about North Carolina agriculture, but during the recent tour I made of Korea, Taiwan, and Japan, that is exactly what happened.

These countries are three of the biggest customers for American farm products, including many items grown in North Carolina. There is a tremendous market out there for soybeans, tobacco, and poultry, to name just three. As one of the agricultural giants of the nation, North Carolina has a tremendous -- and growing -- stake in supplying this world demand.

First, let's look at some of our exports to these nations. It is a surprising fact that one "rice bowl" for South Korea is the United States. Between last July and February of this year, Korea bought 240 million pounds of American rice, and close to 80 million bushels of wheat.

The Philippines bought about 17 million pounds of tobacco, and Taiwan about 22 million pounds; about half of it flue-cured, during the same period. Taiwan was also the customer for 27 million bushels of soybeans.

But it is Japan which is our biggest customer in the Far East. Japan -- industrialized, densely populated, and short of room to

grow things -- must import food to live.

Japan is also our best Asian customer for tobacco. During the July to February period, Japan bought 111 million pounds of unmanufactured tobacco from America, and an additional 84 million pounds of flue-cured leaf.

How secure is this tremendous market? Right now, nobody is saying "Come home, America" as far as our farm exports are concerned, but something must be watched for.

There is a lesson to be learned from our experiences after the fall of South Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. With this increase in the power of Communist government in Southeast Asia, and the decrease in the power of the United States, other countries in the area had no choice but to reconsider their political and economic alignment.

Should the United States pull out of Northeast Asia as well -- in the area of Korea and Japan -- these nations could not continue to be friends and trading partners on the same basis that exists now. The power of China and her allies simply could not be ignored.

A distant, abstract issue? Not at all. It could be as near, and as concrete, as North Carolina's booming agricultural export market.

The Trojan peanut



DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION NOMINATION

by Marty Vega

Serious Shortcomings

In recent months we have pointed out serious shortcomings in the nation's Gross National Product, namely, certain products and services that are badly needed by certain people (like us) and that are impossible to acquire.

To refresh the memories of readers - we detailed the need for a house similar to a doghouse, only smaller to give to a cat, or cats, but we were unable to come up with a suitable name such as, 'Doghouse' - we also detailed the need for a new car warm-up service in the winter, where you would pay a weekly sum, or monthly, just like getting the newspaper, to have some kid start your car and turn the heater on. Also, the pressing need for new, all-brick, all-electric, all very nice, two bedroom houses for couples with no children, but many cats who require a private bedroom.

Now for the latest, where have all the old hand lawn mowers gone? Have you ever tried to buy a handmower? You can't. Stores

simply haven't heard of them since power mowers were invented.

Just as there is a big, vast market for people with big yards who are ready to shell out \$80 - \$120 bucks for a power mower, don't these stores realize there is also a big, vast, untapped market of people who have tiny front yards that they would like to keep looking decent, but they really don't care to buy a power mower because their 200 foot backyard is nothing but a huge bald patch because of the presence of an uncontrollable German Shepherd Dog, yet the tiny front yard does have some uncontrollable grass which needs routine cutting, yet not for no \$120! As the one-time statesman and more-than-one-time crook used to say. Let me make this perfectly clear!

Why don't the sniveling anti-pollution, pro-environment ecologist nuts start up a fuss about the harm to the environment being done by hundreds of thousands of power mowers being operated on Saturdays? Then stores would be pressured to carry non-polluting, non-harmful hand lawnmowers so one could easily acquire one. (A person acquiring a mower).

Let me make one thing perfectly clear.

Any presidential candidate who avows to submit a bill to Congress to require production of hand mowers and cathouses and re-activate the WPA to employ professional car starters will get our vote.

Otherwise, we'll vote for Ford 'cause he's from Michigan.

Letter To Editor

May 9, 1976

Dear Editor:

I would like to express my appreciation to the Hoke County delegates who attended the Seventh District Congressional Democratic Convention Saturday and who supported my candidacy as a delegate to the national convention.

Those attending despite the downpour of rain included Harold Gillis, Charlie Pendergrass, Jimmy Morrissey, Ralph Plummer, Mrs. Marshall Newton, Charlie Morrison, and Neil McPhatter.

Sincerely Yours,
Helen J. Parks



Read Matthew 14:22-23

"Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water.'" (Matthew 14:20, RSV)

The other day I thought of two experiences of Simon Peter on the Sea of Galilee. In one of them, Peter is depicted as walking on the water toward Jesus, but he begins to sink and is rescued by the Lord. In the other, Peter discovers that Jesus has appeared on the shore and leaps into the water and swims to Him.

These two passages were probably never intended to be considered side by side. But side by side they scratch me where I am theologically itching at the present moment.

Every now and then, like Peter, I long for a walking - on - the - water religious experience. I want to be caught up in a spectacular, dramatic manifestation of the presence of God.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

CLIFF BLUE ...

People & Issues



RACES... It looks like Tar Heel voters will have plenty of politics to keep them busy from now until the August primary and likely for another month if a statewide second primary is called for, which would take you to the middle of September which would leave only eight weeks before the big election in November. Here in North Carolina there will be statewide races for governor by both the Democrats and Republicans, a hot race for lieutenant governor by the Democrats, a race for secretary of state, state treasurer, state auditor and commissioner of labor, state superintendent of public instruction. There is also a couple of congressional district races that will heat up before the final nominees are declared in the second district and the eleventh district.

GOVERNOR'S RACE... The governor's race as usual will claim top attention with five candidates having announced on the Democratic side and four on the Republican side.

Vying for the Democratic nomination are Jim Hunt, Tom Strickland, Ed O'Herron, George Wood, and Jetter (Andy) Barker of Love Valley. Hunt, Strickland, O'Herron and Wood are hard at it every day.

With Republican Jim Holshouser having succeeded in 1972 when few really expected him to win has whetted the Republicans appetite with three major candidates vying for the nomination with Wallace E. McCall also attending meetings and making speeches. David Flaherty, Coy Privette and Jake Alex are all regarded as formidable candidates. A run-off may well be necessary for the Republicans as well as the Democrats.

LIEUT. GOVERNOR... The office of lieutenant governor is taking on a far greater importance now than it did a quarter of a century ago. The job pays \$30,000 per year plus an office in the legislative building in Raleigh, secretaries and aides which makes a nice set-up to run for governor four years later.

Vying for lieutenant governor on the Democratic ticket are House Speaker Jim Green, E. Frank

Stephenson, Jr., of Murfreesboro Rep. John Jordan of Saxapahaw G.A. Brown, Jr. of Maxton, Mrs. Kathryn M. Racken of Red Springs, Waverly Akins of Fuquay-Varina, Rep. Herbert Hyde of Asheville, and Howard Lee, former mayor of Chapel Hill.

On the Republican side there is only one candidate thus far, Robert Odell Payne, Greensboro businessman and former State legislator.

SECRETARY OF STATE... Seeking the nomination for Secretary of State are Thad Eure, incumbent and former State Rep. George W. Breece of Fayetteville.

STATE TREASURER... For State Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer Harlan E. Boyles and former State Rep. R. Lane Brown of Albemarle are running, and hard, too!

STATE AUDITOR... For State Auditor there are three candidates for the Democratic nomination, Henry Bridges, incumbent, and Lillian Woo and Walter E. Fuller.

STATE SUPT. OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION... Two candidates are seeking the nomination for Supt. of public instruction Craig Phillips, incumbent, and Ben F. Currin of Rocky Mount.

COMMISSIONER OF LABOR. For Commissioner of Labor there are four candidates for the Democratic nomination for the job now held by Thomas Avery Nye, Jr., Republican. No one has filed for the Republican nomination as of yet, although Nye is expected to do so. Democratic candidates are Bob Dunnigan of Winston-Salem; Jessie Rae Scott of Haw River, Virgil McBride of Winston-Salem and John Brooks of Raleigh.

CONGRESS... In the Second Congressional district where L.H. Fountain is now in his 12th term a lively race is in prospect with State Senator Russell Kirby and Elbert Rudasill having also filed for the Democratic nomination. In the Eleventh District where Roy Taylor of Black Mountain is retiring a lively race is in prospect. State Senator Lamar Gudder of Asheville has filed for the seat as has Michael E. Caughn, also of Asheville. Walter Sheppard has filed for the Republican nomination.

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, May 10, 1951

One of the outstanding efforts made by the Chaminade Music Club in the observance of National Music Week was the program given yesterday morning at 10:15 o'clock over Radio Station WEEB, Southern Pines.

Approximately 20 percent of the 2546 registered voters in Hoke County, 527 to be exact, went to the polls in the county's 10 precincts Monday to decide on the spending of \$275,000 on the schools, a matter that would seemingly affect 100 percent of the county's population.

Hinton McPhaul and Harvey Warlick of the local masonic lodge attended the Monday session of a three-day meeting of York Rite bodies of Masonry being held in New Bern Sunday, Monday and Tuesday of this week.

From Rockfish News:

It is rumored that mumps stopped at Fayetteville Street, well this is a "dead-end" road.

Kenneth Clark of the U.S. Navy at San Diego, California is on leave and visiting relatives here and in Lumberton.

The Senior Class of Hoke High School will present a three act comedy, A Case of Springtime, in the high school auditorium, Friday evening. The cast includes: Billie Lester, O.B. Maxwell, Mary Sue Upchurch, Betty Upchurch, Franklin Teal, Florence Cameron, Fannette Gore, Dave Barrington, Iris Thomas, Davis Currie, Connie Mae Fulk, Etta Mae Dees, Jo Anne Holtzclaw, Doc Ivey and Raye King.

The Raeford Graded School staged its May Festival Monday night in the high school gym on account of the weather.

15 years ago

Thursday, May 11, 1961

Dozens of committees rushed through hectic, last minute preparations for the week-long event which kicks off Sunday with "Faith of Our Fathers." The Jubilee is only a few days away!

Raeford Attorney William L. Moses was named president of the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce for the next fiscal year beginning June 1.

James Alfred Lisenby, 69, of Raeford Rt. 2, suffered a fatal attack about a quarter of mile east of Highway 401A on Rockfish Road. Lisenby's car rammed a telephone pole following the attack.

Edward H. Langston of Raeford, a senior at North Carolina State College, has been designated a "Distinguished Military Graduate," the highest honor that can be bestowed on graduating cadets of the college's Army ROTC unit.

Betty Jo Kinlaw, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C.P. Kinlaw of Raeford, spent a busy Saturday as May Queen at Meredith College.

All costume winners from each of the Jubilee Belle chapters are asked to be at the Raeford Elementary School next Thursday afternoon at four, Mrs. Lawrence McNeill announced.

A Raeford student, Mary Elizabeth Hiser, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Hiser, has been named president of the student body at Watts School of Nursing in Durham.