

Editorials

Viewpoint

BY TOM HIGGINS
Record Editor

It occurs to me:
—That North Carolina's Republican party was dealt a crushing psychological blow Saturday when Congressman Charles R. Jonas announced that he would not be a candidate for governor. GOP leaders who a week before had envisioned "their man" in the statehouse, Sunday were making feeble attempts to hide their despair; a couple even admitted that whoever is the Republican candidate will be nothing more than a sacrificial lamb. Jonas could have won or at least made the race an exciting one. His decision not to run means that the next governor will be decided in the Democratic primary and will be one of two judges—Dan K. Moore or Richardson Preyer.

—That Yancey Countians should give their vote to the gubernatorial candidate who will take a strong stand on road improvements. That nothing has been done about U. S. 19 between Burnsville and the Madison County line borders on pure neglect.

—That "Operation, Second Chance," the training program for students who quit school before graduation, is treading on dangerous ground in a couple of instances in which training classes will furnish direct competition for private business.

—That the best news we've heard out of Washington recently is the report that Conrad Wirth will shortly retire from the Department of the Interior. Wirth is the chap whose stubbornness has held up completion of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Although the government owned a right-of-way in the Linville area, Wirth adamantly refused to construct the "missing link" between Grandfather Mountain and Blowing Rock, demanding a "high route" on the mountain's side. Even after Hugh Morton, owner of Grandfather, offered to compensate on a route about halfway up the side of his mountain, Wirth refused to budge. "My route or nothing," he said. The Parkway does not have to follow the highest ridges in the Blue Ridge; in fact, it does not. In Virginia there are several places where the scenic highway runs virtually through the hearts of low-lying communities. Wirth's action appears to have been a case of an individual

employed by the government trying to force his will upon a private citizen through the use of public office. We have no doubt Wirth's replacement will be more reasonable. As far as the Parkway is concerned, a Wirth-less Department of Interior will be worth far more to North Carolina.

—That it is unreasonable for

the Red Cross to receive more than one-third (\$2,800 of \$8,887) of the proceeds which will be solicited by the Yancey United Fund. Many local agencies which do an equal amount of work are much harder pressed, but are receiving a much smaller amount. However, the local budget-making committee was reportedly powerless to refuse the Red Cross request (which was not made by local Red Cross officials, but outsiders) in the face of what can only be termed as "reprisals." Such a large allotment to one agency, such as the Red Cross, necessitated the omission from Yancey's budget of other worthy organizations, such as the Salvation Army.



Grassroots Opinions

CARLSBAD, N. M., CURRENT-ARGUS: "It is easy to fall into the error of supposing that automation, of which so much is heard, confronts society with problems different in kind from anything that has gone before. This is not true. . . Consider the experience of William Caxton, one of the great translators in the art of printing. It was in the 15th century that he set up a London establishment to print books in English. The Guild of Stationers objected to this newfangled method of using machinery to turn out books. They wanted to know what would happen to the scribes whose livelihood depended in the demand for books copied by hand. What happened was that the printing trade absorbed the copyists

and soon provided jobs for many other men."

PELHAM, GA., JOURNAL: "It may surprise a lot of people but every time a doctor stops at the scene of an accident and voluntarily renders emergency aid, he is taking a risk. For strange as it seems, they can be sued if the victim they stop to help dies or is maimed. Recently one state enacted a law to protect the humanitarian doctor who stops to render aid in emergency. The law was passed only after it became known that insurance companies and lawyers were sometimes advising doctors to keep moving when they came upon a wreck!"

STIOUX RAPIDS, IOWA, BULLETIN-PRESS: "There is no logical or common sense reason for anyone to be a pessimist living in the United States, if he will only open

his eyes and see. As an individual in the United States, you have free access to its gigantic wealth through your own initiative and ability. As long as you do not encroach upon the rights of others, you can acquire as much of it as your capacity warrants. It is all yours."

LA PORTE, IND., HERALD-ARGUS: "At times in the recent race upheavals in this nation the church (all faiths) has taken quite a beating. Charges have been leveled at churchmen that they had not assumed their Christian role and lived up to what they teach. Therefore, it should not go unnoticed that in Chicago's recent race disturbances the most used line of communication between the races has been traced through the churches. . . One Chicago church federation, composed of both Protestants and Catholics, actually has served as the peacemaker in urban renewal and public school misunderstandings between the races."

LITITZ, PA., RECORD-EX-PRESS: "There are indications that the banning of books is on the increase in the United States. This apparently reflects the growth of a widespread but mistaken idea that someone ought to be telling others what to read. . . In 1954, for example, Hans Christian Anderson's beloved fairy tales were stamped in red ink, 'For Adult Readers Only,' by order of the Illinois secretary of state. Mark Twain's 'Huckleberry Finn,' possibly America's greatest novel, was banned in New York because an influential organization disliked one of its characters. Other examples, involving even such masterpieces as plays by Shakespeare, are numerous."

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THE YANCEY RECORD

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TOM HIGGINS, Editor and Publisher
THURMAN L. BROWN, Shop Manager

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY

YANCEY PUBLISHING COMPANY

Second Class Postage Paid at Burnsville, N. C.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1963 NUMBER ELEVEN

SUBSCRIPTION RATES \$2.50 PER YEAR

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To The Editor of The Record:

The civil rights of all Americans are guaranteed by the Constitution. But recent studies show that President Kennedy's civil rights bill may give the Attorney General powers apparently prohibited by the Constitution. This strong shift in the thrust of federal power is especially notable in the matter of voting rights. It destroys more civil rights of more citizens than it protects.

Everyone agrees that only the individual states can set the qualifications of voters. It is the duty of each state to protect its citizens against those who are incapable of casting a democratic vote.

As recently as 1959, the U. S. Supreme Court held that the plain words of the Constitution require voters in federal elections to meet the standards set in each state. And in the question of poll tax, many state legislatures have agreed that only a Constitutional amendment can set it aside as a qualification in federal elections.

But the President's civil rights bill attempts to set aside the poll tax at a time when no Constitutional amendment has been passed. The Attorney General could file suit to ignore one of the qualifications which the citizens of a state have set up under the guarantees of the U. S. Constitution.

In a second provision, the President also seeks to give the Attorney General power to ignore a state's literacy test in a case where a voter applicant has completed six years of school. It is important to note that this infringement of the rights of the citizens in each state is not based on race.

A few weeks ago, the President indicated that the problem of

literacy was widespread. He said that one-fourth of all the young men who took selective service examinations failed the mental test. Even though nearly every state has eight to ten years of compulsory education, one man out of four could not fulfill his civic duties because he could not read or do simple arithmetic.

Nevertheless, the President would allow the Attorney General to bring suit to force many of these same men onto the voting rolls. The President would do this even though the Constitution and the Supreme Court have explicitly left this power to the states—which are in a better position to guard their citizens against an illiterate electorate.

In still a third provision, the President directs his brother to intervene in any state or federal election he chooses. The Attorney General is empowered to set aside the local voting officials. He need only allege to a federal court that less than 15 per cent of the prospective qualified voters of any race have not been registered in that district.

Without taking evidence or making any finding, the court must immediately appoint temporary federal voting referees. The federal referees will then interpret the qualifications of applicants as they see fit. And then the election will be held.

After the election has been decided, the court will proceed to take evidence on the Attorney General's allegation. If it is found to be weak or in error, it will be dismissed, and the unqualified voters removed from the rolls.

But whatever the final outcome of the complaint, the election is valid.

Civil rights experts have concluded that this procedure violates the due process of law which is guaranteed to all citizens by the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. Due process requires that no matter be decided until hearings and a fair trial. But the method chosen by the President allows the Attorney General to attain his desired end before the case is decided.

For these reasons, more and more observers feel that this extension of the Attorney General's

power into the everyday lives of citizens is a disturbing prospect. They feel that the President's civil rights bill consists of 90 per cent federal power and 10 per cent civil rights.

John C. Satterfield
President-American Bar Association (1961-62)
Washington, D. C.

To The Editor of The Record:

In a bright sunshine I was moved to write you this few lines. This is for an obligation. You can do this obligation for me by publishing my name and address in your newspaper because I wish to fall in pen friends with your people.

I think by doing this we can know from each other what is going on in other parts of the world. I wish to fall in friendship with all ages—boys and girls or men and women.

I am a boy of 19. I have an oblong face and am 5-9 tall, light in complexion.

I think by becoming friends of each other we can let each other know about the materials of our countries and our languages.

My hobbies are football (Editor's Note: Soccer), dancing, going to cinema, etc.

I shall be eagerly expecting early letters from those who are interested.

Many thanks for the space allotted in your paper.

Babatunde A. Abari
12 Olumegbon Street
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Lagos, Nigeria
BWA

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