

Roadblock



EDITORIALS

Never Forget That These Editorials Are The Opinion Of One Man
And He May Be Wrong

Welfare State Here

Those who concern themselves with things political have heard the phrase Welfare State again and again, generally as a political threat at campaign time, but as an analysis in this issue of this paper reveals the welfare state is not a threat, it is a reality.

In Lenoir County's tentative budget for 1964-65, \$1,113,032.07 out of a \$2,266,327.07 budget is allocated for the welfare department and in Jones County \$353,579 out of a \$785,954.07 budget is allocated to the county welfare department budget.

Occasionally an irritated taxpayer will wonder why such a huge slice of his money is devoted to welfare in the midst of the greatest prosperity this, or any other country has ever known.

Why should nearly half of a prosperous county's budget have to be spent in taking care of the needy? Who are these needy? What causes them to be in need?

Some are too old for gainful employment, some too young, some too infirm, some lack the mental ability to hold available jobs, and, of course, there is a small percentage

in some of these categories who are simply too lazy and who have become professional welfare clients.

A generation ago persons in the unfortunate categories listed here were supported by their families, their neighbors or their churches but this responsibility has been shifted from these assorted and uncertain and unwilling groups to the single county welfare department.

Naturally this transfer of aid from the private to the public pocket has cost a great deal of money and as inflation moves ever upward the cost of caring for the needy moves right along with all the other costs of living.

In an agrarian society where living costs were less of an out-of-pocket item than they are in an urban society the family acceptance of this responsibility was easier than today. Few modern families can afford the luxury of extra rooms in their homes to care for needy in any of these several categories.

Call it what one may, the Welfare State is here to stay.

Political Science

All else in the wonderful world of politics hinges upon that absolute first essential: Getting elected.

Eternal truths, profound principles, glorious programs, absolute dedication, burning patriotism, and even getting a maiden aunt a job; all vanish for the noblest statesman if he fails in that first test of getting elected.

From the desire of a precinct candidate to hold the smallest office to the awesome aspiration of the national candidate plans, plots and dreams are woven from that one specific thread of getting elected.

So the new face of the Republican Party, displayed so proudly this week in San Francisco, has to be accepted in exactly this light of getting elected.

From its earliest days the Republican Party used as one major tool in this effort to get elected the negro issue, first as slavery and more recently in the fantasy land of civil rights.

Now those in tight control of the Republican Party have apparently accepted a few cold truths that have been staring them in the face for the past 30 years: That

the Democratic Party has the faith and the vote of 99 per cent of the negroes.

For a long time the Republicans tried to recapture this pivotal bloc of voters, and even today the Scranton wing of the GOP would continue this effort. But the Scranton wing of the party is not in control, and the Goldwater wing is.

And undoubtedly it is the strategy of the Goldwater wing of the Republican to not only win without the negro vote, which it had to do even with Eisenhower, but to perhaps win, because of the negro vote hanging so brazenly around the neck of the Democratic Party.

This liability undoubtedly influenced the recent elections in Florida and North Carolina and the Goldwater camp is extending the same principle to the national level, to wit: That there are more white than negro voters in the nation, and that the overwhelming majority of those white voters are tired and disgusted with the maudlin subservience so many politicians have been paying to 10 per cent of the nation's population.

The No. 2 Spot

Since the tragic death of President Kennedy a lot of words have been written on the specific subject of picking vice presidents who have the basic requisites that are likely to fit them for the presidency.

The general theme being that all too frequently the vice president has been an appendage to the national political ticket whose principal value was in his peculiar appeal to some sectional, racial or religious group.

We wonder, however, if the boys in the back room will pay much attention to these matters of high principle? Theirs is the sticky task of picking a winning combination and once the No. 1 spot has been filled they are not likely to shop about the convention for Albert Q. Egghead of spotless character and impeccable manner. One state's electoral vote is often the difference between four years "in" or four longer years "out."

And there is also the little matter of dealing with the No. 1 candidate, who may not want to run with a man who turns a phrase more neatly, has a better TV profile or a more elegant platform manner than he.

John F. Kennedy was surely one of the most intellectual men ever to seek the presidency but he and his considerable family conducted one of the most deliberate campaigns in the history of American politics. And despite the very low opinion a majority of them shared for Lyndon Baines Johnson they accepted him as No. 2 man on their slate because of all those readily available Johnson was that single man most likely to bring with him a considerable bloc of Southern electoral votes.

We can safely expect Johnson to be just as coldblooded in his choice of a running mate, and Barry Goldwater is likely to use just as much deliberation in this department as either the late president or the current incumbent.

We need none but the best to seek such high office, but in politics the mechanics have to work with the tools that are available.

The Eternal Search

Sometimes, perhaps most of the time, a majority of us feel that too much of mankind's energy is spent on the purely materialistic, but there always has been — and still is that percentage who seek beauty in all things.

Man's effort to change his environment has resulted in great masterpieces of architecture and engineering, as well as miserable blots on the face of nature.

Styles of living, styles of building materials and needs all have a hand in dictating the reasonable limits of general experimentation in both the fields of architecture and engineering.

There was a period during which the "functional look" caused all aspects of the decorative arts to fall into exceedingly low esteem, but there is some reason to hope that the bleakness of this so-called modern functionalism has passed and we are again entering, if timidly, into the realm of the decorative arts of building.

Unfortunately the artisans who created the gingercake of Victorian ostentation are no longer with us but there are daring young people in the fields of metal, color, glass and plastic who are capable of making even the beehives of megalopolis appeal to the eye as well as to the pocketbook.

Perhaps the happiest marriage of man to his environment has taken place in the delicate world or landscape architecture, which blends the living and working spaces demanded by man into the lovely folds of that greatest designer: Nature.

Architects are opinionated if they are good but society would be a drab drag without them, and perhaps every community with a dream of greater beauty should have a consultant architect to guide, if not dictate the general direction of man's eternal remaking of his environment.

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PERSONAL
PARAGRAPHS

BY
JACK RIDER

I cannot really believe that the handful of negroes at the San Francisco convention are acting without a plan. I don't believe they could be that stupid on the spur of the moment. They threaten to walk out of the convention if each and every demand is not immediately met, when there's no record of a negro voting Republican since Franklin Delano Roosevelt stole them away from the GOP.

So it appears to me, from this considerable distance that an organized and successful effort is being exhibited in Frisco to convince the multi-million television audience that the Republican Party is the Party of the white voter. Each and every situation brought forth in the name of the negro has not only been slammed down, but has been slammed down hard.

This, of course, is no accident. The Goldwater forces are out not only to win the nomination but also to win the November election and it is their studied opinion, reached after some little research that there are more white-thinking voters.

I'm sure that the "liberals" are shedding very genuine tears over this attitude, but if they were to examine the long-range best interest of the nation — including the negro, they might come up with the happy finding that a swing now toward less negro controls of central government is the best possible thing that could happen.

Under a man with the character and ability of Goldwater the retrogression will be imperceptible, but certain from the recent minority-block tone of national politics. Such a retrogression is inevitable ultimately, and in politics as in physics the more pressure that is built up in a given direction the more pressure is required to counteract it when counteraction finally takes place.

The pendulum of American politics has not swung nearly to the Reconstruction Days zenith of a hundred years ago, but it has swung much further in that direction than at any time since the counteraction to Reconstruction excesses took place more than 80 years ago.

It is my feeling that the swing will now be away from this emotional minority jag and back toward equitable government for all people, black or white, which we surely have not had and do not presently have at the national level.

I do not think the negro citizen has anything to fear now from this retrogression, because it will not be violent. But it almost certainly will be violent if it is not now permitted. If the absurdities and illegalities of the recently passed so-called civil rights bill were to be rigidly enforced — assuming that they could be — such a reservoir of bitterness and frustration would be built up that nothing short of violence would absorb it. That is why I sincerely believe that the obvious swing away from this particular frenzy is not only in the best interest of the nation, but especially in the best interest of the negro.

The American negro has come a long, long way in every facet of our society since slavery was ended a hundred years ago, and I suppose one must admit that spasmodic efforts will continue to be made to legislate even further progress in the negro's name.

But a major portion of our better class negro citizens already know that equality cannot be legislated, nor enforced at bayonet point. The negro as an individual and as a race must find his own level of attainment by his own ability and hard work. There surely is no equality among white people, or even between grains of sand and well-intended efforts to legislate such an impossibility only divide our people and make us appear ridiculous in the eyes of the world.