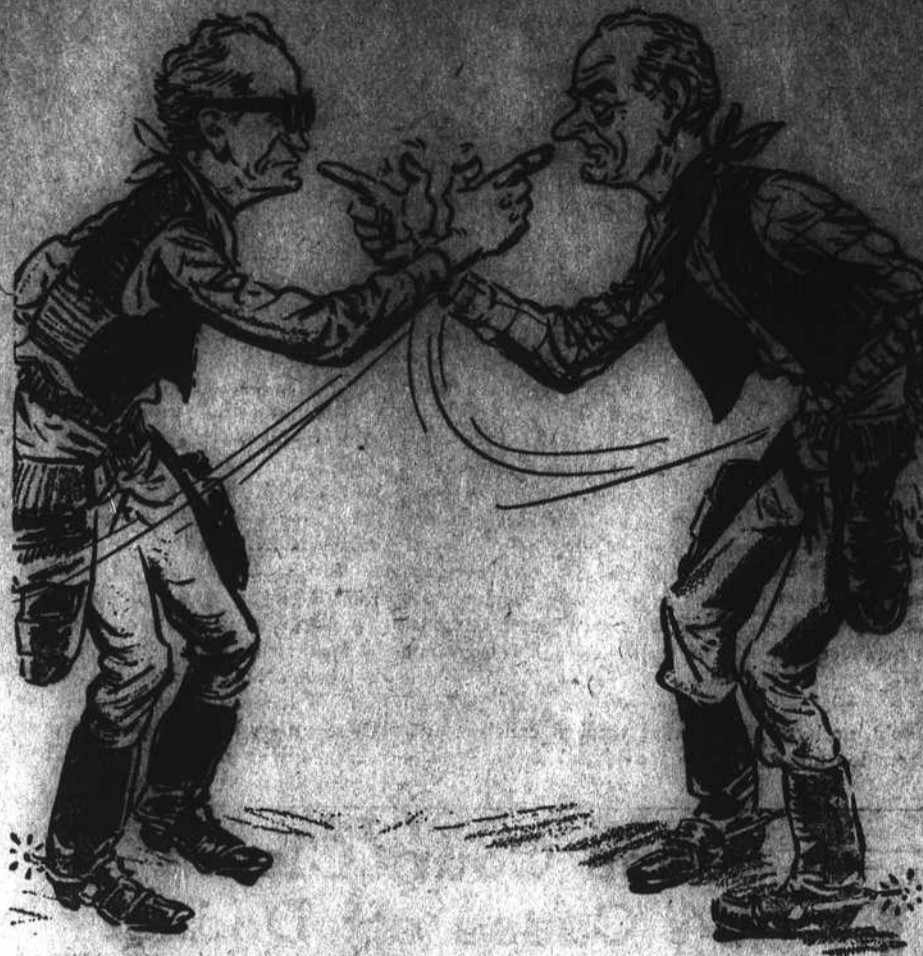


'You're trigger happy!'



EDITORIALS

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

The Danger Of Bigness

When government grows beyond that point where reasonable people can comprehend it there is a terrible danger that is something comparable to children playing hide and seek in a railroad yard.

Big government is capable of so many wrongs not out of malice but simply because of size. An example of this has forcibly come to our attention in the past three weeks, and in this order:

Three weeks ago we received a news release from the Farmer's Home Administration outlining loan programs and surprisingly a special grant program under which people would be given the taxpayer's money for repairs and renovations to their homes.

To say the very cotton-picking least we were flabbergasted to hear that the Agriculture Department was taking over the welfare chores of the Health, Education and Welfare department.

We talked with Representative L. H. Fountain and sent him a copy of this release at his request because he was just

as shocked as we to learn that the FHA had moved into the welfare field. And we might note here that Fountain is chairman of a sub-committee of the governmental operations committee which oversees all programs in the agriculture department.

He in turn called this to the attention of James Whitten, who is chairman of the appropriations committee and last week a line item was knocked out of the five billion dollar appropriation for the agriculture department; thus ending, if temporarily another give-away program hidden in the fine print of the huge apparatus that has grown along the Potomac.

Noble as the motives may be for such a paternalistic effort there is no equitable basis upon which one man must borrow and repay with interest for repairs and renovations to his home and another is given an outright handout for identical purposes. Ability to repay, to work and lack of "incentive" cannot be determined with any degree of fairness so such a program begins with the utter impossibility of being fair to all citizens.

The Last Flounce

From this distance it appears that the political dead fish called Terry Sanford is making his last flounce on the beach before the sea gulls and sand fiddlers fete him off into limbo.

Sanford's last political flounce is over Dan Moore's appointment of a Democratic National Committeeman. Sanford should realize that he failed to a degree no other politician ever has in his effort to pick his successor in the State House, so why should he so recently swamped feel that he has either the prestige or the right to question an appointment that has always been recognized to be the prerogative of the governor-elect.

There were many Democrats in reasonably good standings who did not view with complete pleasure the choices Sanford made in 1960 for National Committeeman and Committeewoman, but nobody tried publicly to discredit Sanford in the Los Angeles convention because of his poor choice for these posts.

Sanford is busily trying to carve another political niche for himself and he is finding the going very rough. He helped cut Lyndon Johnson's throat in 1960 for the

Catholic vote in North Carolina which came with the laying on of hands by Bobby Kennedy.

Evidence of LBJ's regard for Kennedy is his suicidal decision to run for senator in a state where he doesn't even have the legal right to vote. So it is not unreasonable to assume that Sanford can expect very little from the present occupant of the White House. Nor from the man who occupies it in 1965, whether that man is Johnson or Goldwater.

But Sanford has proven his ability in the past to dredge up a choice plum when all around him had despaired. What Sanford lacks in ability he makes up in determination, and his determination lies principally in the direction of holding a choice political post.

Naturally he is more aware of all these things than a country editor put in the sticks but his ability to stick in his thumb and pull out a plum has been proven over and over again so he's liable to wind up smelling like roses again, rather than the politically dead fish he appeared to be in June.

Farm Propaganda

This particular area will hear much more than its fair share of the propaganda aimed at convincing the peasants that Barry Goldwater will utterly destroy what has come to be loosely called the "farm program."

The absurdity of such an assertion ought to be so apparent that no reasonable person would swallow it, but there are many who are fair-game for the half-truth, the oversimplification and the political exaggeration.

Goldwater has spoken out against farm controls and he does sincerely believe that our nation would be better off without so many centralized controls over practically every facet of our life both private and public.

But Goldwater is not an idiot, although the extremists of the left are doing their worst to make him appear one. Goldwater is a man of profound conscience and legislative ability who knows far more about what makes our national economy tick than the socialists of the Democratic and Republican parties who abhor his belief in basic constitutional principles.

And Goldwater knows that our form of government is forcedly a system of compromise, and that no politician ever has his way 100 per cent of the time in any sphere of affairs. Even Roosevelt struck out on some points when he tried to push his beliefs beyond the political stretching point of no return.

Goldwater believes our waste of foreign aid funds should be cut but he knows the practical impossibility of doing this at once. Goldwater believes with many more Americans that the farm economy would operate better without artificial efforts toward control — all of which have failed completely.

Goldwater knows that tobacco is a major part of the American economy and the largest single agricultural contributor to the federal budget. He knows that total tax collections from tobacco products runs over three billion dollars per year and although he may believe this vital industry would be better off without the harassment of federal controls he is not the kind of political babe-in-the-woods who would cast such an important part of the economy adrift while every other segment of the economy had some kind of governmental protection.

But you will be told frequently from now until November 3rd that Goldwater will destroy the tobacco program. Don't believe it.

Just A Reminder

This is just a reminder that tobacco selling time is here with all the happy things it brings, and all the unhappy as well.

When so many millions of dollars are paid out in such a brief period thieves of all types are bound to turn up, drawn as flies to honey.

But perhaps even more dangerous than the hustlers and thieves who suddenly appear are our individual weaknesses. For many of us the old story of the grasshopper and the ant are most fitting. Many tobacco farmers are rich for a few days and then broke again. This situation is not nearly so bad today as it was 20 or 30 years ago, but it is still bad enough to remind that the tobacco farmer is in an unhappy situation. He has to work 12 months to the year and he only gets paid for about two months.

Faced with this peculiar situation it is perfectly human for him to feel a little rich in September and October, and perhaps then to overspend to his discomfort a few months later.

Few of us have the will power to really budget our funds even when we are paid each week, or each month, so the problem of the tobacco farmer is much, much worse. Trying to budget a two-month pay check over 12 months.

As one result of this lop-sided situation the tobacco farmer probably pays more interest than any other type of farmer in our economy.

There is no certain solution to this problem but the best direction found so far is for the tobacco farmer to develop other sources of income; other cash crops that will come off at different times of the year, or if possible all through the year. A majority of our farmers have done this with hogs, or corn or beef cattle or poultry or truck crops or cucumbers.

But there is a considerable percentage of our farmers who have not yet learned the success story of diversification which is the only path open toward a better life on the farm.

PERSONAL

PARAGRAPHS

BY
JACK RIDER

I have some politically minded friends who are really nervous about the State of the Nation, and I share their alarm, but not their pessimism. The drift toward state socialism that has been going on for the past 25 years is enough to frighten anyone who really understands the ambiguous brutalities in the faceless dictatorship of a bureaucracy. The individual in such a society is not killed with one swish of the guillotine, nor with a pistol bullet in the back of the head but he dies the agonizing death of a fly caught on a flypaper.

But I am optimistic and largely because of the providential wisdom of those men who argued out the priceless charter of our freedom: The United States Constitution. True, this most precious document has been badly abused from time to time in its relatively brief history. The current crop of men who ignore and warp the Constitution is not the first attempt to set aside by military might or judicial trickery the principles so clearly and concisely embodied in this framework of liberty.

Lincoln suspended by military order and completely without legal power many most basic constitutional privileges. Jackson handled it roughly. Roosevelt skirted it. Truman in the steel crisis jumped over it. The present supreme court ignores it completely. But all of these wounds are relatively insignificant to the overall body of our constitution. Painful, yes; deadly, no.

In our country the ultimate power still remains with the people and our government is by consent of the people, although recently many of us have seriously doubted if this were true. But the public is a huge, tolerant animal; capable of absorbing tremendous amounts of punishment and slow to move. But amazingly this slow-moving public is far ahead of its so-called leaders. And at this junction-point in our history it is my optimistic view that the very creed of socialism that has been subtly woven into the fabric of our national affairs has the elements of its own destruction built-in.

In taking from the "haves" to give to the "have nots" there always comes a breaking point. That vague dividing line beyond which politicians cannot venture without great peril. The Russians made the tragic mistake of believing with bureaucratic simplicity that peasants would grow pigs, and peas and meekly surrender them to the "have nots." This ignorance of human nature led to the brutal murder of millions of these strong-minded farmers under Stalin's early regime.

But it has left Soviet agriculture hanging on the ropes until this very day — more than 30 years since Stalin said if the peasants won't feed the cities, the peasants shall also starve and so he sent his police and troops to destroy the seed corn of Russian agriculture and perhaps more importantly to break the will of the Russian farmer to support the glorious era of proletarian rule which the Leninists preached but never practiced for one single minute.

And so it is, I believe, in our own country that there will come a day — and it may be November 3, 1964, when we peasants will throw off the yoke of bureaucratic waste. And of this much I am absolutely certain, whether it is this November or some other November it will come because that much

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