

OTHER EDITORS SAY

WRAL-TV VIEWPOINT

On Baptist Committees

Perhaps it was Mr. Dooley, the Irish wit, who first defined a committee as being a group of the incompetent appointed by the unwilling to do the unnecessary. Mr. Dooley may not have been a Baptist, but he knew a thing or two about Baptist committees.

At the time of the recent Baptist State Convention, we put aside the temptation to comment upon a couple of petty and petulant resolutions brought forward by the convention's so-called Public Affairs and Christian Life committees. The gents who compose these committees, it seems, do not like to hear opinions on television and radio with which they do not agree. So, they offered a handy solution: Just let the Baptist State Convention call on the federal government to increase its control over broadcasters.

It hardly seems necessary to reflect upon the absurdity of the position of those behind these resolutions. We know some of the gentlemen personally. They have been absurd before and we would not, for an instant, deprive them of their right to absurdity in the future. In the first place, they seem always to display a talent for providing a curious sort of slapstick comedy when they march, as so often they do, onto the political stage. The rest of society has a right to smile, perhaps, at these men who know not, and know not that they know not.

It is not comfortable, however, to witness these men as they engage in comical conduct instead of logical persuasion. Still, it is an interesting development that those who are the prime beneficiaries of free speech in our society would so unhesitatingly make a spectacle of themselves with a demand that free speech be whittled upon by an all-powerful government.

But so be it. The moving hands of the committees wrote, and having written, moved on to a slumbering, disinterested convention which, with machine-like detachment, voted aye. The Baptist State Convention, in one grand sweep, voted approval of something it neither understood nor had considered.

It boggles the imagination to contemplate so large a group so manifestly unaccustomed to

public thinking. One hardly dares to imagine what other kind of resolutions might have been slipped under the door to win the approval of such a sleeping giant of a group. Such is the work of a committee; such is the frustration of a convention.

One need not wonder, then, at the bewilderment of Mr. Harry Severance, who this year serves as president of the North Carolina Association of Broadcasters. Mr. Severance sought first to obtain reasonableness from the camp of the Baptists. Then he sought justice. He received neither. He sent a telegram remarking upon such gratuitous attacks by the Baptists upon the one medium of communication that does most to serve the cause of religion. He recited the fact that broadcasters of North Carolina give freely of their time and facilities for such service. And he requested that the Baptists at least give a hearing to broadcasters before letting the ink dry on the resolutions.

Nothing doing, said the Baptists in reply. The convention had neither the time nor the inclination to correct any mistakes it had made. After all, said the Baptists, we weren't talking about broadcasters of North Carolina; we were talking about broadcasters of the nation.

Whereupon Mr. Severance, having done his best to reason with the self-righteous, turned away from the affair, wondering if the Baptists knew what they were talking about, much less whom. It was, all in all, a remarkable performance. On one hand, the Baptist State Convention rejected federal aid on the valid grounds that it would lead to federal controls. On the other, it struck a blow against freedom of speech, by inviting further federal controls to silence voices with which some few Baptist convention committee members personally disagree. The total picture is a study in awkward absurdity, a spraddle-legged attempt to walk on both sides of the street at the same time.

Perhaps even the Baptists realize that if you want something hopelessly confused, just turn it over to a committee.

How to Save Money on Fertilizer Buying Outlined by Man Who Knows

"You can save on your fertilizer bill with soil tests this Fall."

One of the safest ways to know what fertilizer to use is printed on the soil tests results sheets coming from the soil testing division of the N. C. Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Preston Reid, director of the service to farmers, says: "Close adherence to recommendations of the soil service from NCDA is the safest bet. 'Gestimates,' or using rule-of-thumb calculations, might work only some of the time."

Soils analyses made from good, dry samples taken on the farm, and fertilization according to the results, may be one of the answers to lots of the problems we have with getting maximum yield from our acres, he said. "Whether, insect damage,

and improper cultivation can also complicate the production of large, quality crops," he added.

"Just recently we have asserted a strong program for soil sampling for the coming crop seasons in 1965," he said. "We have materials, instruction sheets, shipping boxes and soil containers in the hands of county agents. We also have placed a large number of information sheets with these important agricultural workers in the 100 counties."

"Just as dairymen keep exacting records on their cows' production, just as livestock producers keep close records on their animals' gains, so should each farmer carefully plan for the coming season with good soils records."

"If we do not have the information on the sheets supplied

with the sample boxes, analyses by our laboratory workers cannot be properly developed into recommendations for fertilization by our agronomists. Each farmer's soil receives the best of attention — at the 'test-tube' stage of analysis, and again when that soil sample is studied for recommendations considering the crops to be planted, according to the latest soils research."

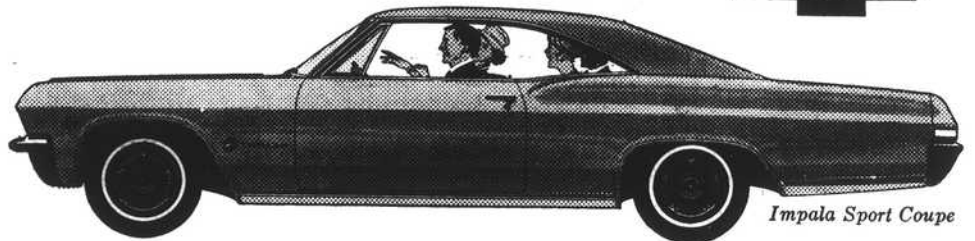
PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

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Minister of Indonesia is a man named Sukarno. That's all the name he has. People who lack family, lack the most basic root; for without a sense of family there can be no sectional or national identification; and obviously without identification with a culture there is no culture. As a noted local exponent of the arts and "culture" recently pointed out: "One cannot buy a ticket to culture!"

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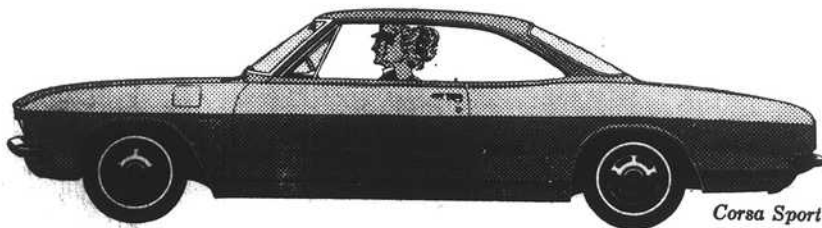
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