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Supreme Court Meddling in Make up State Legislatures Part of Union Effort to Dominate Local Legislation

A battle of major proportions is shaping up in the U. S. Senate. The issue is the Dirksen Amendment on "reapportionment" — to determine the make-up of legislatures in all 50 states. But more basic is the question: "Can the Supreme Court repeal the Tenth Amendment and deprive the people of their Constitutional right to decide how their state governments will be run?"

Those who favor the Supreme Court position argue that the Constitution is an old-fashioned document which must be modernized to meet new conditions. If the Supreme Court wants to "interpret" away any part of America's basic law, they say, without benefit of the legal machinery for amending the Constitution, it is within its rights.

Those who favor the Dirksen Amendment, which takes the road prescribed by the Constitution for dealing with major changes in this basic document, insist that the Supreme Court has violated the Constitution and precedent of 175 years. They point out that the rights of Americans have been protected by the legislative system the Supreme Court arbitrarily overthrew. They note, too, that the Constitution gives the states exclusive sanction over the make-up of state legislatures.

What, however, is at stake? Until the Supreme Court decision, most states had two-chamber legislatures. One was elected on the basis of population and the other on the basis of geographical subdivisions. Through this system, neither the big cities nor the rural areas could dominate a state's legislative process. Repeatedly, the Supreme Court had refused to interfere and had, in fact, characterized any unilateral judicial intervention as a "political tick-et."

The Dirksen Amendment will restore to the states the rights denied them by the high court. Behind the amendment is a bipartisan coalition of senators who represent all viewpoints from left to right and all areas of the country. Against the amendment is a group of senators who intend to block passage by any means, including the filibuster.

The Dirksen Amendment has received impressive endorsement from nationwide farm, civic, and trade organizations. The majority of the Senate approved it in an earlier form last year. Public opinion polls have shown tremendous support for the Amendment.

One of the biggest obstacles to passage of the Amendment is the AFL-CIO. From the standpoint of the powerful labor leaders, this makes sense. If the amendment is defeated, then the big-city machines will dominate the state legislatures. And since organized labor has a controlling interest in these machines, the AFL-CIO will be the beneficiary.

Privately, it is conceded that AFL-CIO preponderance in the state legislatures will have a stranglehold on party organization and on the national conventions which nominate Presidential candidates.

If a filibuster blocks the Dirksen Amendment, therefore, it

will change the whole pattern of national governments and national elections, paving the way for the kind of labor government which the United States — when given a free choice — has always rejected.

To most political observers here, that is the real issue in the upcoming battle over "reapportionment." And that is why the Senate will study mail from its constituencies with more than the usual care.

Two Jones Arrests

Sheriff Brown Yates reports the arrest of two people in the past week: Wilmer Lee Burton of Maysville was charged with drunken driving and driving without a license and Lemmie Reynolds of Trenton has been accused of passing a worthless check.

He Wants Out!

Ernest Bradly Benton, formerly of Kinston, has filed a post conviction writ in Jones County Superior Court, alleging his so-called constitutional rights were abridged when he was sent to prison for 6-to-8 years for drunken driving and manslaughter in August of 1964 in Jones County. Judge George Fountain has appointed Attorney Darris Koonce to represent Benton in this hearing. The prisoner was first placed on probation on condition he pay a small fine, but he failed to pay the fine and had the suspended sentence invoked. Now he wants to get out and try again on the highways.

Fifth Traveling N. C. Art Exhibition In Kinston

The Fifth Traveling Exhibition of the Associated Artists of North Carolina, Inc. will open on Sunday March 6th from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Kinston Art Center.

This exhibit is composed of 21 works chosen from the 10th Exhibiting Members Show held last January at State University in Raleigh.

Selection was made by the juror, Dr. John Richard Craft, Director of the Columbia, S. C. Museum of Art.

The show will remain at the Art Center through March 27th. Gallery hours—Tuesday through Saturday from 8:00 - 1:00 2:00 - 5:00. Sundays from 3:00 to 5:00. Closed Mondays.

BAREFOOT BOY

Leslie Lilley of 604 Williams Street, Kinston, went out of a very small bathroom window last weekend while Deputy Sheriff Elijah Tyndall was trying to persuade Lilley's wife to let him in to serve a handfull of worthless check warrants on Lilley. Lilley was caught when he came out, however, without shoes, which he wanted to go back and get. The officers took him to jail and then got him some shoes.

Want Their House

The very rich and highly respectable Mortgage Investment Company of Winston-Salem has filed what probably will be the last court action in a sordid story of thievery by aluminum siding peddlers. The Winston-Salem company this week filed a "writ of possession" so it may force Johnnie and Mary Belle Brown out of their Pollockville home. This illiterate, hard-working couple put their mark on a "contract" for an \$1800 aluminum siding job on their home. Some months later they found that the flim-flam artist who "sold" them this contract had recorded a mortgage against their home for more than \$10,000. This fraudulent mortgage was peddled to the Winston-Salem firm, and it has foreclosed on the mortgage and now holds "legal" title to the Browns' home. The Browns employed a New Bern lawyer who was in extremely poor health to represent them in court, which he failed to properly do and now they stand on the verge of being thrown out of their home, "legally" that is, too.

Maysville PTA Sponsoring Supper And Game Friday

The Maysville Elementary School-Parent-Teacher Association will sponsor a supper and basketball game Friday night, March 4.

Beginning at six o'clock supper will be served in the school cafeteria, for one hour. Tickets, on sale at the door, are priced as follows: children grades 1-3, fifty cents; grades 4-8, seventy-five cents; and adults, one dollar. The meal will be served cafeteria-style, with a wide variety of foods prepared by P. T. A. members.

A "Father-Son" basketball game will follow the supper at 7:30 in the gymnasium. This game will feature Maysville eighth grade boys and Maysville Men who have children in Maysville School area or Jones Central.

Proceeds from the events will be used for library books and other school projects. Albert Hardison and Mrs. Max Buckingham are co-chairman of the supper and ballgame.

Sheriff Files

Sheriff Brown Yates is the first person to file for election subject to this year's series of primaries and the general election. Yates filed a fortnight ago, but kept very quiet about it. He is seeking another 4-year term in the office he has held since the death of Sheriff Jeter Taylor nearly 13 years ago. Filing deadline for those who'd like to run for sheriff is Noon April 15th.

DESTROY BIG STILL

Lenoir and Greene County officers Tuesday morning destroyed a large steam type whisky still in the Airy Grove section of upper Lenoir County. No one was at the still when it was raided, but investigation is continuing to determine ownership of equipment found at the still, which may lead to indictments.

Bad Luck Followed by Very Good Luck

Monday afternoon at 1:35 in the midst of the day's heavy rain Mrs. Blythe Casey of Kinston route 6 was driving toward Kinston on the Oak Bridge Road, accompanied by her infant son, who was asleep on the seat beside her. Between the last flood bridge and the river bridge Mrs. Casey's car went into a skid, and wound up backing off the highway, down the very steep embankment and into the cold, muddy flood waters of Neuse River. Mrs. Casey grabbed the sleeping infant, managed to get onto the hood of her car as it kept slowly backing deeper into the flood water. Because of the steepness of the bank and the rain causing people to ride with the windows closed passers could neither see Mrs. Casey nor hear her hollering for help. Finally so much bad luck turned into good luck as Robert Williams, a driver for Kinston Building Supply Company, came along and from his higher perch in the truck cab he was able to see Mrs. Casey. Minutes later with his help Mrs. Casey and her son were on solid ground, and just in the nick of time, since minutes after they were rescued the car slipped slowly, but completely beneath the icy cold waters. Both escaped without injury.

Brutal Rapist of Kinston Girl Being Studied for Parole

Edward Keltner is under study for possible parole from the state prison by the paroles board.

Keltner, who was sentenced to "life" in prison in June of 1958, kidnapped and raped a Kinston girl in November 1957. He was charged with a similar crime in Jacksonville, but was not prosecuted for that offense since he had been given the so-called life sentence in Lenoir County.

Before Terry Sanford left the governor's office he commuted Keltner's term to 25 years.

During the trial of Keltner in Kinston a member of his family said he had committed the same kind of kidnap-rape crime in Ohio before entering the Marine Corps, in which he was serving at the time of his Kinston and Jacksonville crimes.

CHASE IN VIETNAM

Private Douglas S. Chase, son of Mrs. K. H. Andrews of Trenton, is serving in the Chu Lai sector of Vietnam with Company "B" of the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, an infantry regiment of the 3rd Marine Division. As the basic unit of the infantry battalion, his company's primary mission is to locate and meet the enemy, and to capture or destroy him. The unit is presently participating in the defense of the Chu Lai airfield and surrounding area.

Killed in Viet Nam

Another Kinston service man was killed last week in Viet Nam fighting. The latest local casualty was 28 year-old Private Charles Whitfield, whose mother, Mrs. Esther Lee Roland, lives at 517 Perry Alley in Kinston. Whitfield, a graduate of Adkin High School, was killed last Monday. His body is being returned to Kinston for burial.

Five-Year Gain of 50 Per Cent in Private Payrolls in Lenoir County

Figures just released by the Government show that the number of businesses in operation in Lenoir County is at a high level.

There are more of them flourishing in the local area, in proportion to population, than in many parts of the country.

The survey, which was conducted by the Census Bureau, in cooperation with the Social Security Administration, also provides data on the number of people employed and the size of payrolls in every section of the United States.

The report was compiled from tax reports submitted by employees last year, under the social security program. It was based on figures covering the prior year's operations.

Appeals \$100 Fine For Drunk Driving

In Jones County Recorder's Court last week Joe Thomas Harvey of New Bern route 3 appealed a sentence given him by Judge Joe Becton for drunken driving. Becton gave Harvey a 60-day jail term, suspended on payment of a \$100 fine and court costs.

Other cases in the court during the past week include Peggy Dean White of Pollockville fined \$26 for speeding. C. J. Autry of Maysville route 1 fined \$16 for driving without a license. Delmar Franklin Southard of Maysville route 1 paid the court costs for driving an improperly equipped car. Jerry Cleveland Cannone of Sanwsboro paid the costs for speeding and Jimmie C. Foss of LaGrange paid the cost for failing to yield the right of way.

To Auction Guns

At 9 a.m. March 12th Superior Court Clerk Walter Henderson will sell at public auction at the courthouse door in Trenton a .38 caliber pistol and a 12 gauge shotgun that have been confiscated recently by the court.

TWO-IN-ONE ACCIDENT

At the corner of Caswell and Independent Streets in Kinston last Friday afternoon Darius O'Neal, 12, of 16-G Simon Bright, ran into the side of a car driven by Willie Burkett of 303 East Peyton. Salvation Army Captain Paul Herzog, stopped for a red light at the time of the accident, jumped out of his car to help the child, left his car in gear and it drove itself across the intersection to hit a car driven by Janice Merle Graves of Maury. The child was not badly hurt and total damage to all vehicles was only about \$200.

At the same time, there is no
Continued on Page 8