

**SENATOR SAM ERVIN SAYS**



Washington — This week I am going to discuss the proposed Constitutional Amendment in the field of civil rights.

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment**

The Constitution provides that each state shall appoint, in such manner as the Legislature hereof may direct, a number of electors equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to which the state may be entitled in the Congress (Article II, Clause 2); that "the House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several states, and the electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State Legislatures" (Article I, Section 2); and that "the Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each state, elected by the people thereof, for six years. . . . The electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State Legislatures" (Amendment 17, Clause 1).

**Framers Were Wise**

If history shows anything, it shows that the framers of the Constitution were wise in permitting the states to prescribe the qualifications for voters. On one occasion, Congress rejected the wisdom of the Founding Fathers in this respect and undertook to let the national government act in this field. This Congressional folly resulted in the tragic era now known as Reconstruction, which culminated in the shameful episode in which Samuel J. Tilden, the duly elected candidate for the office, was robbed of the Presidency.

Despite this sad historical experience, it is proposed that the Constitution of the United States be amended so as to vest in every person of the required age and place of residence not actually confined in an insane asylum or a prison an absolute right to vote in any election held for any purpose in any political subdivision anywhere in the fifty states constituting the



The 1960 Ford Sunliner is one of 15 models in the new Ford line which will be introduced October 8 in Ford dealer showrooms across the nation. Featuring the strikingly modern rear deck and fast-wing motif, the new Fords are five inches longer, five inches wider and have more interior leg, hip, shoulder and head room than before. Ford's new integrated design, harmonizing the interior with a single, flowing exterior streamline, is proof that modern styling need not be radical or eccentric.

United States, even though he be an idiot or an unrepentant felon under conviction for a crime involving moral turpitude.

When all is said, the only reason assigned for the proposal that the states be robbed of the right to prescribe intelligence tests for voters and barred from depriving unconfined idiots and unconfined felons from the elective franchise is simply this: That it is alleged that in a comparatively few areas of the country supposedly qualified persons have been denied the right to register and vote, and that it would be easier to establish the truth of such allegations in the future if the only qualifications required of voters were the possession of a physical body, with or without intelligence and character, plus an attained age and a fixed place of residence.

**Would Be Unwise**

For Congress and the states to heed this proposal for such a Constitutional Amendment would be about as sensible as using an atomic bomb to destroy a few rats.

As I have already pointed out in a previous column, there are now sufficient Federal statutes to prevent or punish any provable charges that any qualified person is being wrongfully denied the right to register and vote in any of the 165,115 voting precincts in the fifty states comprising the Union.

Other proposals will be discussed in next week's column.

Professional Women's Clubs in the United States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The Perquimans BPW Club is observing this 31st nationwide celebration with women who work, which has as its theme for 1959 "A Right Turn to a Confident Future," a theme which expresses the confidence of the members in our country, its free way of life, in their state, home town and its citizens.

One of the major weeks on the American calendar, it was established to show the world the ability, caliber and progress of the members of the largest and oldest national organization of business and professional women in the world.

The Perquimans BPW Club was organized in 1948. It has 16 members with four active charter members: Margaret W. Bagley, Roxanna C. Jackson, Viola D. Nachman and Alice Towse Owens.

Since its organization, it has been responsible for many improvements, such as meeting with the Town Board and requesting the installation of street

markers and traffic lights. The club endorsed the county health program and helped to further plans for the Health Center. It helps with various campaigns such as TB and cancer. It used cancer material in establishing a commander for Perquimans County. The club awards a BPW medal to the outstanding commercial student at Perquimans County High School. It is interested in the social welfare and economic conditions that confront us today. As a service to the community, it maintains a loan closet for the sick where emergency supplies may be obtained as a courtesy of the club. These items may be obtained by contacting Mrs. Roxanna C. Jackson, chairman, or Mrs. Betty T. Swindel, co-chairman.

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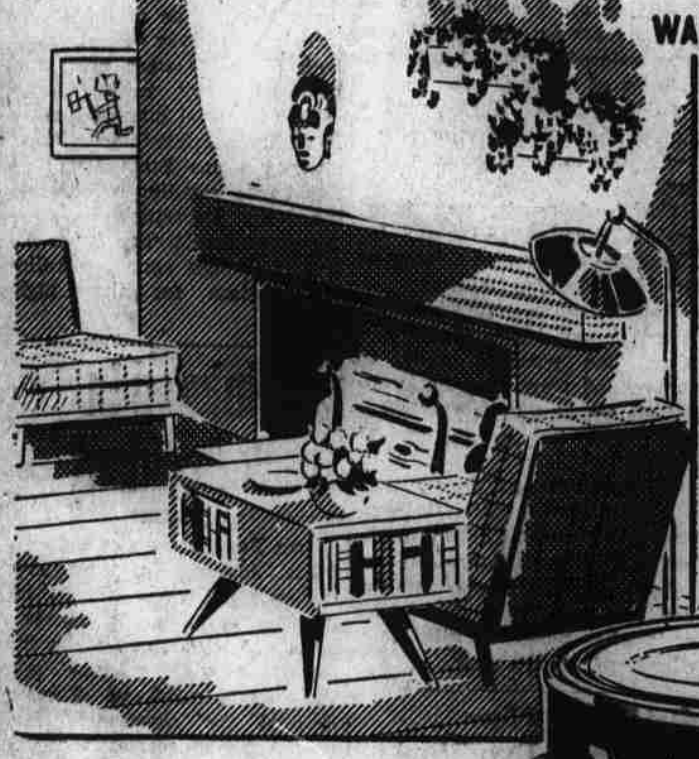
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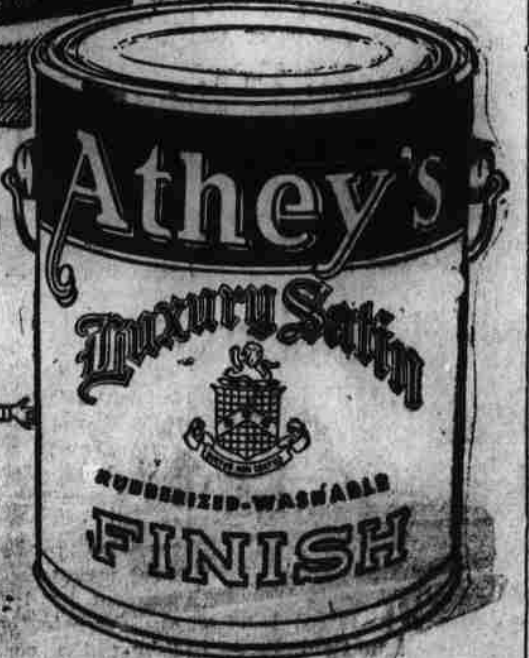
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