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Hear O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many. Proverbs 4:10.

Two Elections

Under legislation by the General Assembly, many changes have been made in the state's voting procedures, not least among them requirement that all the state's 312 incorporated municipalities complete their biennial election business on November 6.

Since Kings Mountain's system is a non-primary one (that is, politically partisan) yet requiring majority for election, Kings Mountain citizens will vote Tuesday to determine identity of City Hall elective officials for the forthcoming two years.

The same act, eliminating the so-called Cleveland County act, which was inspired by Cleveland in the thirties and applied to nine other counties, produced yet another October election, this one on Saturday coming.

Commenting on the two in order of appearance:

THE SCHOOL MATTER

Cleveland county citizens will answer "yae" or "nay" Saturday to two questions, the ground rules providing that neither shall be "yae" if both aren't.

The questions: 1) Shall Cleveland County's district debt of its three districts be consolidated to become general county rather than district obligations? 2) Shall Cleveland County issue \$4,050,000 in bonds to be used for capital expenditures (school buildings, additions, and/or equipment) for the benefit solely of the county school district?

The questions are simple but the answers on reasoning predicated the proposals are not.

Since district financing is no more by the aforementioned legislative act, the bond proposal and its use designation as means of equalizing district debt as it becomes the general obligation. In other words, the county district is considerably behind on basis of per capita school population which is the historic (and fair) means of division of school funds.

The boards of education urge "aye" votes to both proposals.

Students of current 1973 school law point out: 1) debt consolidation with equalization is fair and, perhaps more important, the law a) does not require a county to distribute its funds on a per

Crime Prevention

"Wave of Thefts and Vandalism".
"Pair Charged with Larceny".

These are two Herald headlines of the September 27 edition which also contained a much larger one: "Crime Prevention Program Launched In City". The first two point the need for the major one.

There is much conversation about the increase in crime in North Carolina, Chicago, Atlanta and other major cities.

The problem, obviously, is not limited to major cities, but exists right here in North Carolina, and Cleveland County, and Kings Mountain.

Operation Identification is an interesting innovation and experiment. The idea is not only to recover stolen goods but to put the noose to the thief and put him in the hoosegow.

The United Fund

Ten agencies rendering valuable services to the community will live, get by, or starve on response of citizens to the annual Kings Mountain Fund campaign, which began officially Monday. The goal to support all ten is \$36,100.

After several years in the United Fund program, Kings Mountain has adopted the one-check-for-all habit, with a good record of supporting the program.

A liberal check is in order.

capita pupil basis, but b) does require county commissioners to provide required physical facilities for all students in the county.

Herein lies the answer to the teasing question: How can Kings Mountain and Shelby "gain" by voting bonds for someone else? Kings Mountain and Shelby districts already owe their debts, which will be paid district-wise — or these debts, with the county commission required to provide facilities, will be paid along with those required to provide the additional needs for the county district anyway.

Amazingly, proponents point out, the equalization bond issue figures to provide the right amount of cash to provide two junior high schools the county district system sorely needs.

THE CITY ELECTION

Tuesday's election, barring the highly unlikely prospect of several ties, will determine the identity of the individuals and course of city government for the coming two years.

Actually, this course is pretty well set already—not matter the identity of the winners—for two principal reasons: 1) state law and 2) long-term projects already on the books.

Most newcomers to city office, priorly uninformed, quickly learn these facts of municipal life.

The campaigning, in contrast to some dotting the city's 99-year history, has been contained and well-tempered. Since all incumbents are candidates for re-election, the generic question is: Has the present administration done a good job, or hasn't it?

ON VOTING

Voting is a right and prerogative of a democratic form of government. None who has qualified (by citizenship and registration) are denied the privilege.

Conversely, none are driven to the polls by the bull whip of fear that failure to vote will bring reprisal.

Which is as it should be. Per capita, the United States casts fewer votes than many nations, both in the free democracies and the totalitarian nations—where in the latter the use of the bull whip of fear is quite apparent.

Milton Fryer

The untimely death of Milton Fryer, at 56, shocked and saddened his many friends.

Mr. Fryer, a native of Racine, Wisconsin, adopted Kings Mountain.

It was in turn quite easy for Kings Mountain to adopt the friendly, ebullient gentleman from the Mid-West.

After a comparatively short tenure as a Kings Mountain citizen in the early years after World War II, Mr. Fryer's work took him elsewhere, but he entertained the intention, realized, to retire here.

Our sympathy.

Legislative Recourse

There seems little doubt that supporters of a four-year medical school for Eastern Carolina University will not bow to the thinking of a study commission which said a four-year medical school at this institution isn't the best way for North Carolina to get more and needed doctors.

The ECU medical school supporters will take their fight to the legislature.

MARTIN'S MEDICINE

By MARTIN HARMON

Many citizens have commented on the quietude of the city election politicking season.

m-m

Could it be credited with the mere fact of change of date, or connected with the seasons? In the spring the sap rises and the trees bud and sprout leaves. In the fall, the sap recedes and the leaves die and fall. Item I guess is probably more correct. Certainly, the autumn has been no bar to unquiet, bombastic campaigns in county, state and national elections.

m-m

Municipally, the season situation was no bar to activity in Atlanta, where eleven candidates piled the voters' favor.

m-m

Perhaps it is I, covering my 14th city political campaign with the Herald, who am guilty of the late Mayor Garland Still's tease of 20 years ago. Garland was telling me a rather tall tale that I declined to believe. Said Garland, "Aw, since you got married, you don't get around anymore!"

m-m

During these years, I have worked with seven mayors, J. H. Thomson, H. Tom Fulton, Jim Herndon, Sr., Garland Still, Glee A. Bridges, Kelly Dixon, and John Henry Moss.

m-m

In 1947, prior to the city election and on public demand, the General Assembly changed the city charter to provide for scrapping of the strict ward system and plurality election. One little item was omitted from the bill. Though majority election was required, no provision was made for run-offs.

m-m

That posed an interesting problem. What if no candidate for a particular office attained a majority?

m-m

It happened on the first go-round. The incumbent did not offer for re-election and there were several would-be successors. Here I (and a goodly number of others) got a lesson in law on the phrase "shall continue in office until his successor is elected and qualified". In Ward 4, John Henry Moss led the running but had no majority. Since he was not elected, therefore could certainly not qualify (be sworn). Incumbent W. M. Gantt, no candidate, could by law continue in his seat for two more years.

m-m

Commissioner Gantt did not so choose. Mayor Fulton and the four elected commissioners took their oaths. The first matter of business was acceptance of the resignation of Comm. Gantt. The next matter of business was the appointment of Candidate Moss to succeed Comm. Gantt.

m-m

The closest race for mayor during this period came two years later. Jim Herndon, three prior mayoral terms under his belt, and incumbent Fulton were the candidates and my un-checked memory is that Jim won by 87 votes.

m-m

The closest commission race I recall was in 1951. C. C. (Shorty) Edens and Lloyd Davis, now seeking to regain his post of years ago, waged a hot battle. The count: Davis by seven, 920 to 913. Mr. Edens was first declared the winner until a recheck of the totals revealed the tabulation error.

m-m

Here came another lesson. Mr. Edens sought a recount. It was denied, on customary historical grounds that no evidence of error was presented.

m-m

This year's election has more differences than date. The city commission no longer doubles in brass as the city elections board. It is this board now which appoints the elections officials, and certifies the returns.

m-m

This season probably marks two firsts: 1) by legislative act, the present administration will have been in office more than two-and-one-half years; 2) Hugh A. Logan, Jr., is mostly likely the first announced write-in candidate in the city's history.

STUDENT TEACHER

Virginia Susan Goforth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Garrison Goforth of Kings Mountain, began her observation and directed student teaching for Erskine College on October 1. Miss Goforth, a senior elementary education, is teaching Kindergarten and first grade at school in Abbeville. She is a Greenville St. Elementary 1970 Kings Mountain high school graduate.

Viewpoints of Other Editors

FARSIGHTED BAPTISTS

As America encounters growing threats to the principle of keeping church and state separate, thank God for the Baptists. Traditionally they have been quick to sense danger in mingling church beliefs with public education.

The movement for an amendment to the Constitution, sanctioning prayers in the public schools is having a revival just now. An amendment proposed by Senator Schweiker of Pennsylvania says: "Nothing in this Constitution shall prohibit the several states and the District constituting the cost of government of the United States from providing for voluntary prayer in the public schools of that jurisdiction, nor shall it abridge the right of persons lawfully assembled in any public building to participate in voluntary prayer."

Many Americans may see nothing wrong with that amendment. But John W. Baker, a spokesman for nine Baptist denominations, is not among them.

Testifying before congressional committee, he declared: "Once government has been given the power to permit, provide or promote religious exercises or prayers, it is a short step to favor one form or creed over another. Indeed, the prayers in a school district could be rewritten or altered after each school board election to reflect the tenets of a majority of 'the new board'." The Baptists of course aren't alone in their traditional opposition to union of church and state. Prayer amendment proposals have drawn vigorous opposition from various Protestant and Jewish groups, and from organizations promoting civil liberties. But the Baptists throughout our history have been in the vanguard of the fight against organic ties between church and government.

Note, for example, an issue that came up in Johnston county some 35 years ago. The county board of education was besieged with requests to provide Bible study courses in the schools in cooperation with churches. Superintendent H. B. Marrow and the school board understood the dangers of mixing church-sponsored education with the public school curriculum. When they resisted demands for Bible courses, their chief defenders were Baptists of the Johnston association. Baptist leaders publicly warned against the danger of particular interpretations of the Bible prevailing over others in public education, in violation of free worship.

The traditional Baptist view, shared by many other religious groups, regards religious education as an obligation that must be assumed by churches and families. It is not to be entrusted to the public schools. Any semblance of organic union linking church to state is to be avoided in the name of freedom. But this does not mean that Baptists and members of other denominations, as individuals, are not to involve themselves in political matters, giving expression to their religious beliefs, as governmental issues arise.

Surely, there is nothing unconstitutional or dangerous about voters and politicians applying Christian or Jewish principles to public affairs. The lack of such application weakens a merit much more than the absence of religious worship in public schools.—Smithfield Herald.

LUV MATCH MEANWHILE

The female chauvinists who returned to real life Friday morning, crowing over Bob by Riggs' defeat, deserved their day of glory. In his pub'city-wise pose of loudmouth male chauvinist, he was asking for it.

But this "battle of the sexes" really turned out to be the battle of a good tennis player and a superb tennis player. The superb one happened to be a woman, and Billie Jean King's triumph was a spectacular public ratification, if that were needed, of her efforts for equal rights for women in the sport.

It may have been a love match only in the sense of the score—3 to 6—but it ended without the artificial jibing surrounding it. Mr. Riggs lost like a gentleman, no excuses, though there's a question whether the gentlemen's (gentleperson's?) sport of tennis will ever be the same. Instead of simply shifting heads side to side in the usual manner of a mass of silent typewriters, the biggest tennis crowd in history came out with gladiatorial cries like football or fight fans. Commercialism was rampant from Mr. Riggs' emblazoned jacket to Mrs. King's ads for a hair curler between bouts of curling Bobby's hair.

But there seemed a basic good humor in all the hoo-la, and the tennis itself, seriously and excitedly played, handily survived the air of extravaganza.

While the Riggs-King tennis match was giving TV one of its summit evening home entertainment, another channel was showing "Bonnie and Clyde," a movie providing an extreme example of the violence that, alas, is still all too prevalent on the tube. For all the film's artistic repute, it was depressing to

switch from the healthy conflict in the Astradome to a man's face being shot away for dramatic purposes.

A Monitor survey suggests that the TV season is beginning with statistically less violence than during a similar informal tally five years ago, while "frankness" and tastelessness, are on the increase. But when 281 "violent acts" are noted in a week even before some crime series have begun, the news is not good.

Of course, make-believe violence strikes different viewers in different ways. Certain situations could be misleadingly unrealistic without it, including the criminal lives of "Bonnie and Clyde."

But the circumstances of TV presentation tend to blunt distinctions. The interweaving of violent melodrama, the new actual horrors of war, and inane commercials tends to level their impact. The danger is a callous acceptance of brutality along with pap. In the absence of the industry's disciplining itself in this regard, viewers need to keep their own discrimination sharp.—Christian Science Monitor.

A COUNTRY IN NEED OF PRAISE

The Saturday Review and World magazines have joined forces in a new biweekly whose first issue offers a valuable reminder: America is "a country in need of praise." This phrase is the title of an article drawn from a forthcoming book, "Coping," by Daniel P. Moynihan, ambassador to India and former assistant to the president for urban affairs. Without mentioning Watergate, Mr. Moynihan writes:

"Relentless emphasis on social failure and corruption is now way to summon social energies that are needed to set things right. To recognize and acknowledge success, however modest, is fundamental to the practice of government. It is a first principle of leadership in a democracy, where loyalty must be directed more to institutions than to individuals." As one example of success, Mr. Moynihan cites the virtual disappearance of the dual school system in the South during a surge of desegregation in 1970 that placed Southern schools ahead of Northern schools in this respect. "The administration in office which had worked to bring about the end of the dual school system, did not especially want to take 'credit' for it, while its opposition did not in the least want to give 'credit' . . . Almost immediately thereafter the issue of school busing arose in Northern cities. If only it had done so in the context of a wide acknowledged success in the South, might not public attitudes have been different?"

Whatever one's answer to that question, such successes should be acknowledged. One may disagree with Mr. Moynihan's view of solving some urban problems through a kind of "benign neglect" (though he doesn't resurrect that albatross phrase here). But his emphasis on admitting success as well as failure is particularly important now as the nation's confidence in itself is challenged on various fronts. This is not to advocate slipping into the old complacency but to realize that things are really not so bad that it's not worth trying to improve them. As Mr. Moynihan concludes, "American society would do better to pay somewhat more attention to its successes, for it needs a reserves of morale that this kind of awareness brings."—Christian Science Monitor.

Bonds Sales Best Ever

Sales of Series E and H Saving Funds bonds in Cleveland county during August were \$89,821. January-August sales totaled \$797,830. This represents 72.6 per cent of the county's goal of \$1,099,000, according to George Blanton Jr., county volunteer chairman.

August sales of Series E and H bonds in North Carolina amount to \$7,571,119, 3.2 per cent above August 1972. January-August sales totaled \$60,603,179—6.4 per cent above the same period last year and the highest on record for any comparable period since 1945. This represents 69.6 per cent of the state's 1973 dollar goal of \$87,100,000.

Nationally, August sales of series E and H savings bonds totaled \$567 million, 0.9 per cent above 1972. Total cash sales of E and H Bonds for the first 8 months of 1973 amount to \$4,577 million, 6.4 per cent above a year earlier. Sales exceeded redemptions, at cost price, for the 35th consecutive month. Total holdings of bonds-shares came to a record \$60.27 billion.

SOCIAL CALENDAR

Wednesday: 3:00—Kings Mountain Garden Mayes on Ridge street. shrdluw club at the home of Mrs. H. Carl Mayes on Ridge street. Mrs. George Houser, program chairman; Mrs. Richard Greene, guest speaker, "Conservation."



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