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THE 'RIGHT TO VOTE'

THE argument used most frequently by the Drys in favor of a statewide liquor referendum is that "the people are being denied a right to vote."
It would be a convincing argument except for two things:
1. The people already have a right to vote under the local option system...

the state to protect a system they have already chosen for themselves by exercising their right to vote.
The Penny Bill, which is an out-and-out wet-dry referendum, commends itself much more on the basis of fairness, even though it, too, fails to evaluate properly the desirability of local option.
The Raleigh News & Observer, which favors the referendum, infers that Drys may or may not advance the principle of the state referendum depending on the expediency thereof. Says the News & Observer:
"Those who heard that voice of the people a right to be heard are denying what they have already done."

MRS. JOHN M. SCOTT

MRS. JOHN M. SCOTT bore a distinguished married name, one that stood high in this community. Yet it was more than a widow who died yesterday; it was a woman very much a person in her own right. To her hundreds of friends it was "Miss Bleeker" whose stout heart finally gave up the battle in which, for some weeks, only her will had sustained her.
She called herself, the quaint name Miss Bleeker, till a lot about her. In the South the use of the title Miss is a custom by which a difference in years is set aside without any show of disrespect. It is a name which older men may call a girl politely by her given name, and at the same time a means by which younger people may show friendliness by calling an elderly woman by her given name. It is decidedly a mark of affection, and in the

case of Miss Bleeker Scott it was used in something of a derogatory sense.
Born a Springs of Fort Mill in a family where she reared the only girl among many brothers, she inherited vigor of mind and a certain amount of independence. During her long years of married life in Charlotte she came to be recognized as something of a grand dame of the town's society, but principally as a woman of character, kindness and an unflinching charm. With Mr. Scott's death and the decline in her health, she had withdrawn into restricted activities where few saw her. And yet in her lingering days many people were concerned and anxious to help her. It was "Miss Bleeker," they asked about.
There may be others like her, but it would be hard to find one so representative of the best of the time and place in which she lived.

FEDERAL SCHOOL AID

CONGRESSMAN Hamilton C. Jones' statement to the News on Federal aid to education was a most forceful argument in favor of the pending legislation. It followed in general the line taken by all Federal aid proponents which, stated briefly and minus statistics, goes like this:
Some of the states with the most children in school are least financially able to educate them. They may have a larger proportion of their state income to education, but the Federal Government can give them what they need.
Every American has the right to an education. It is the duty of the Federal Government to step in and equalize the state funds.
The Federal Government has the duty of providing for the education of the children of the poor.
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of Federal supervision and standard-setting.
The Federal Government has no money of its own which doesn't come from the individual states in one way or another. Federal aid to education will merely transfer a part of the tax load from the states to the Federal Government, but the taxpayers won't save anything, for they have to keep up both governments. On the contrary, they will lose, for experience has proved that waste and inefficiency multiply in any government project because larger.
If there were no other reasons to object, the simple, hard truth that the Federal Government cannot afford to take on any new financial obligations would be adequate justification for opposing Federal aid to education. The colossal cost of paying for past wars and preparing for a new one, the financing of a quarter-billion dollar national debt, the reconstruction of the world and the cold war against Russia, plus the huge outlays for various New Deal and Fair Deal projects, have required a Federal tax structure which shares the burden of education with the states.

AN INDEFENSIBLE TAX

WE HOPE that Rep. L. M. Rivers of South Carolina is correct in his prediction that the bill which he has introduced in the 81st Congress, providing for the repeal of the 10-cent-a-pound tax on colored margarine, will become a law within three months.
A similar bill was introduced by Rep. Rivers in the 80th Congress and was passed by the House but never reached the Senate floor.
This tax on colored margarine is punitive and indefensible. It ought to be abolished and we think it will be.
A close observer puts it this way: "Liquor is a lot of people. State out late kills a lot of people. Smoking kills it a lot of people. What kills all those people will live right?" — Pittsburgh (Texas) Gazette.
You do not lose a real friend by doing someone else a favor; you just unmake a fake friend. — Kingsport (Tenn.) Times.

of the Government in power. As Federal aid and private school funds would be stronger and stronger. In fact, it is my firm conviction that should we start Federal aid to our public schools now, we would see virtual Federal control within a decade, to be followed within more years by the nationalization of industry, production, transportation, utilities and agriculture.
The real issue before us today is whether or not we shall take this most crucial step toward Federal aid to education toward the socialization of America.
—DR. C. R. HARDING.

People's Platform Federal Aid To Education

Editors: The News:
ONE finds in the broadcast by Dr. George B. Benson, president of Harding College, Searcy, Ark. (ABC Network, Dec. 26, 1948) a very pertinent, clear argument against Federal aid to education. It is the dangers to a true democracy in the U. S. in the adoption of this proposed education bill as real as the speaker believes them to be, or even a fraction as real, one is surprised that the advocates of Federal aid are so numerous and so loudly clamorous in support of the plan, the objections as set forth by Dr. Benson being plain and the plan so straightforward with manifest harm and with further ill to come.

For us in North Carolina, the fact that the President of our State University, Dr. Graham, along with so many prominent N. C. educators, is a supporter of and advocate for Federal aid to the public schools, is not surprising. It is not surprising that whether the declared ill to be seen in Federal aid and the unwisdom of passage by Congress have a real basis.
Such is Dr. Graham's high standing in North Carolina, his high standing first, a Christian gentleman of unquestioned honesty and sincerity, a scholar of repute, and a member of the Federal Government, for years a student of education in its many forms and of economic and public affairs, and who makes most of us in North Carolina slow to believe that his advocacy of this Federal aid can be due to anything but his firm conviction that the plan is unquestionably a wise one and that the policy as outlined will advance education in the public schools in a most pronouncedly beneficial way.
Here are some of the weighty objections to Federal aid as set forth by Dr. Benson:
1. Both the proponents and the opponents agree that the present bill, calling for \$300,000,000, would be but the beginning. "In my opinion it would increase until the Federal Government would be carrying the major part of the load within a decade after the start had been made. The question is whether the matter of Federal control now so serious would have been fully accepted and the consequences known."

2. Should the principle of Federal aid to public schools become the rule, we may be assured the principle would be extended to the junior college level. In fact, that is already being discussed. With the principle in operation to the junior college level, we can expect that it would be gradually extended to the senior level, and private schools and colleges would tend to be squeezed out of existence through one of two procedures or a combination of both.
First, Government policies of cheap money and low interest rates have destroyed the effectiveness of the endowment funds. High taxes have shrunk the sources from which gifts for private schools may come. With the Federal Government's policy, this threat would become much more serious.

Second, in the second place, there is already some legislation in the pipeline which would virtually eliminate public school for national identification. With the Federal Government's policy, this threat would become much more serious.
Consequently, the real issue is whether we shall maintain a locally supported and locally controlled public school system or one that would virtually eliminate local control and tend to eliminate private and church schools and colleges and to eliminate the consequences of the Federal Government's policy.
If we even modestly substitute the administration of the public schools to the Federal Government, there is a tendency for the instructors to teach the views

of the Government in power. As Federal aid and private school funds would be stronger and stronger. In fact, it is my firm conviction that should we start Federal aid to our public schools now, we would see virtual Federal control within a decade, to be followed within more years by the nationalization of industry, production, transportation, utilities and agriculture.
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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WHAT appears to be a harmless meddler for clogged-up streets has started a new dope craze that is creeping across the country. The dope is found in ordinary benzene inhalers.
Not only are inmates taking dope from inhalers smuggled into the prisons, according to a prison warden, but the press has reported that a Federal prison in Alabama was first brought to light by Alabama's Congressman George Grant, who studied on the shocking case of the prison's inmates.
In spite of rigid regulations to keep benzene inhalers out of the prisons, the warden reported that some inmates had turned yellow from using the drug, and who were able to get benzene-treated paper torn out of the cans and smuggled to them. One inmate reported that he had even filled the paper waste into the closely guarded trash can.
In most cases the benzene-saturated paper was soaked in water, then the mixture was injected into the blood stream with a hypodermic needle, the Congressman said. When the prisoners couldn't borrow or steal a hypodermic needle from the dispensary, they sometimes used the tip of benzene paper into razor slashes on their arms.

That Inspection Law . . .

Editors: The News:
I SEE by the papers you are still worrying about our new inspection law. Brothel has you been down to the inspection lane and sat for hours and hours and not get through and then go back next day and do it all over again?
Well, I have, and I don't like it a little bit, and it's not the old dilapidated cars that are causing most of the trouble. Just look at the pictures of wrecks in your newspapers and see what kind of cars are involved in these big right trucks and buses of ten you will find it's the new fast Perket 8 and so forth.
Come on now, let's see. Newspapers are supposed to print the truth and nothing but the truth—and why did our men in high places who are supposed to be filled with wisdom let the dealers load our streets with used cars so dangerous, and then start cracking down on the poor fellows that bought them. And why are we about to let the dealers load our streets with used cars so dangerous, and then start cracking down on the poor fellows that bought them. And why are we about to let the dealers load our streets with used cars so dangerous, and then start cracking down on the poor fellows that bought them.

A Correction

Editors: The News:
PLEASE permit me to correct a statement in regard to local history which appeared in The News and was signed by Marquis Childs. He stated that our five chapters of Daughters of the American Revolution are planning to restore the Mecklenburg Declaration in the Hezekiah Alexander House. This is incorrect. The committee appointed by the Mecklenburg convention to draft the Declaration was composed of the following persons: Dr. Ephraim Brevard, Rev. Hezekiah J. Balch and William Kemmure.
A number of persons have asked that this correction be made.
—JULIA M. ALEXANDER.

Likes Editorials

Editors: The News:
I READ your editorial "Topics of the Times" in yesterday's News (Feb. 16) with much interest. It would be great if every taxpayer in America except those with high bills, could read this thing.
I would also like to commend you for the one in today's News (Feb. 17) "Our Ham in Wonderland." Hope that our Hon. Ham sees this.
Keep up the good work.
—CLAUDE A. MURPHY.

Lesson To Learn

WASHINGTON
DURING World War II intelligence was a major factor in the Nazi and Japanese successes. Germany was often amazingly accurate. At times the most secret plans of Hitler and the Japanese command were transmitted to London.

The chief reason was the extraordinary network of professional spies supported by the intelligence service in Germany through the years. There was also the fact that many courageous Germans, hating the Nazis and all they stood for, were determined to die to try to send out vital information. As a British cabinet member expressed it, "It was a conversation in London during the war."

"Why shouldn't our intelligence of Germany be good?" said our agents in the United States of the same family working for us. It is the achievement of a professional grandfathers, father and son who were brilliant spies and who were the intelligence system which, when all considered, is a highly professional job. It is a dirty, mean, secret business that most governments regard as necessary at the present level of human development.

Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON
I NOW seem probable that all that has been said about the spy ring that came from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is more than a mere publicity stunt. The Canadian report consists largely of testimony given by witnesses before the commission, with long quotations from the report and unemotionally.

An End To Nonsense

WESTERN Germany and trade officials are making a great effort to make you Americans realize that it is possible that Americans may be able to do more for Germany than in Europe they don't feel so sure of themselves.
All things that themselves mated. Kilmore's letter and the story of the spy ring in Germany which tell the same story are only interesting in view of the fact that they are not true.
Consider the letter an accurate representation of an unbelievable situation. It is a story of a spy ring of thousands of Kilmore who have been trained in espionage by the professors, generals, former U.S. officials, scientists, yet the United States has not been able to do anything to help them. Instead, these people live miserably on their own, and on such aid as private organizations like the International Rescue and Relief Committee can spare.

Much remains to be done. A direct appeal to the German people by the caliber of Norman Armour, who has been in Germany for many years, is a source as the Carnegie Institute or the Rockefeller Foundation. It is a source of help that would be appreciated that the intention is not to feed the country with spies. But considerable progress has already been made. And if all the hundreds of thousands of people who have been found to study the 80 million people in Germany, it is a source of help that would be appreciated that the intention is not to feed the country with spies. But considerable progress has already been made. And if all the hundreds of thousands of people who have been found to study the 80 million people in Germany, it is a source of help that would be appreciated that the intention is not to feed the country with spies.

Small, Easy To Carry

THESE inhalers are small and easy to carry in the inmates, and it is not too difficult for them to hide them. We have been fortunate enough to catch a couple of dishonest men who have been found to study the 80 million people in Germany, it is a source of help that would be appreciated that the intention is not to feed the country with spies. But considerable progress has already been made. And if all the hundreds of thousands of people who have been found to study the 80 million people in Germany, it is a source of help that would be appreciated that the intention is not to feed the country with spies.

Benzene Inhaler Dope Craze Spreads

Warden H. P. Balkner, Georgia State Prison—Benzene has caused more trouble within this prison than any other form of dope. It is being used by inmates who are completely by the use of this drug.
Superintendent L. F. Chapman, Florida State Prison—Benzene is causing more trouble in this prison than any other form of dope. It is being used by inmates who are completely by the use of this drug.
Superintendent O. M. Smith, Washington State Penitentiary—We like every other penal institution in the country, we are having a difficult time controlling the use of benzene and habit-forming drugs. It is definitely established here that the use of benzene contributes to the development of the inmate's personality. The use of benzene as a stimulant by thousands of persons not confined in institutions is also a serious problem.
Warden W. E. Snyder, Sing Sing Prison—Regulations prohibit benzene inhalers but recently some inmates prepared some through improper channels.
Warden B. L. Stewart, Arizona State Prison—I feel that if benzene inhalers were put on the prescription list 98 per cent of our trouble with inmates would be eliminated.
Warden E. J. Bennett, Pennsylvania—While the use of benzene inhalers has been prevalent for a number of years it appears, since the war, their use has increased by changing the contents of the laboratory's bottles.

them in hot water and coffee has become very prevalent in alcoholics and others seeking to effect a cheap drunk. It is being used by inmates who are completely by the use of this drug.
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