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The Poppycock Of A Party Chairman

NATIONAL party chairmen are, we suppose, necessary evils. But must they be so necessarily evil as Meade Alcorn and Paul Butler when it comes to southern Democrats?

It didn't surpise us when Mr. Alcorn showed, in wooing the Dixiecrat vote, that he places his party's votehunger above the need for North-South liaison in the Democratic Party. After all, his job is to get Republican votes. He is paid to do so. But we had hoped that Democratic National Chairman Paul Butler would not try to carve up the party on sectional lines. The futility of that hope began to be clear this past weekend when he invited Democrats who would take issue with the national civil rights plank "to take political asylum wherever they can find it, either in the Republican party or third party."

He said he had Gov. Orval Faubus and Sen. James O. Eastland specifically in mind. But the blanket nature of his remarks indicated that anyone who doesn't "want to go along on the racial problem and the whole area of human rights" will have to bow out. Every Democrat, northern or southern, is familiar with the family squabble which almost has to take place every reunion —namely, at every national convention. There are no panceas for the race question. Particularly are there no panaceas or "sovereign remedies" which will suit even the most temperate men of the North and South. No one expects the Democratic national convention in 1960 to be a feast of harmony on this vague "area of human rights" Mr. Butler mentions.

But it is high time for the arrogant Mr. Butler to remember several things. Basically, that neither in history nor in the recent past has any American political party been the servant of one point of view or of one political interest. When it has attempted to become such, as Mr. Butler's party did before the Civil War, in that case driving bewildered northern Democrats out in the name of a narrow expediency, the reward has been drastic. The debacle of the party before 1860, forcing a narrow orthodoxy on Yankee Democrats which caused them to be reviled as "copperheads," helped lead on to the Civil War. It is also time for Mr. Butler to note that there are southern Democrats in plenty with a taste for Sen. Eastland and Gov. Faubus no sweeter than his own. It is time for Mr. Butler to admit that behind his piety about "human rights" lies a demagogy as pernicious as the Faubus-Eastland variety. Surely he would be the last to deny that northern Democratic politicians must cater to minority views in the north; and of course having Faubus and Eastland in the same political teepee is no help. There are no few members of the northern party junta who claim as if by divine inspiration a monopoly on all concern for "human rights" and are constantly suggesting that no southern Democrats are concerned about them. That, of course, is poppy-cock.

Mr. Butler's remarks are inept not only as to content but as to timing. They fall upon ears which in some quarters of the Democratic Party in the South savor no talk so much as talk of a reenactment of the 1948 bolt. The Dixiecrat partisans learned then, as Mr. Butler knows, that a Democratic presidential candidate can win without the South. They ignored, however, in their rampant neo-Confederate quixotism, that such a bolt places southern-held congressional committee chairmanships at the disposal of the national party. Indeed it was only by rather broad-minded statesmanship of Mr. Truman, whom they repudiated, that these chairmanships were retained after 1948.

With rumblings of another revolt abundant, it will not take loud or long shouting to blast the southern Democracy half in two. The potential is there.

The One Gift That Keeps On Giving

THERE is heartwarming evidence of the depth of community support for Charlotte College in the $325 scholarship established last week by the Mecklenburg County Oil Information Committee.

Gifts of 50 cents, $1 and up from service station men representing a half dozen or so competing oil companies made the scholarship possible.

It was a noble and generous gesture and one other professional, business and civic groups might well duplicate.

Many promising young Mecklenburgers are being denied the benefits of a higher education simply because they cannot afford it.

Scholarships need not be large. Community college tuitions are relatively low at Charlotte's two community colleges and often only a modest amount is needed to supplement a student's part-time earnings. Every little bit helps. The oil information committee has already demonstrated how a lot of little bits can add up to a considerable big bit in the life of a deserving young person.

Last Sanctum Of Rural Paraphernalia

THE Southern States Fair has given up the ghost, largely because of "the gradual but real decline in agriculture in Mecklenburg and surrounding counties."

We are not given to plucking any sad dulcimer over the passing of rural paraphernalia. Weather - boarded outshacks, smudgy kerosene lamps, blue denim overalls worn in the raw, and rooting pigs under the kitchen window were probably never so delightful to those who knew them well as wistful suburban literati cracked them up to be.

In plucking our note of requiem for the death of country fairs, we frankly confess that we never did have heart-to-heart experience with them. We never raised prize golden Guernseys; we didn't fatten hogs; we didn't put up strawberry preserves; we didn't bake chocolate cakes; we didn't cultivate potted plants. So we never contended for any of those storied blue ribbons, taken with mythical tears of triumph, which made you and maybe Norman Rockwell think of everybody from Grandpa in his straw hat to blonde-haired daughter hugging a cow beside the mud-spattered family nitney. All that belonged for us to the picture gallery with conestoga wagons and tomahawks.

Alas when we think of fairs we think more of what had been the sideshow but had since roared into the spotlight — the midway. We think of shooting galleries where you shot and shot while the change dwindled and finally won a balloon, of strength-hammers which showed an eight-year-old to be a mild Atlas. Of wild stories from the burlesque tent about none too modest gals with incredible dexterities you didn't mention at the dinner table, and of "gypsy" fortune-tellers whose pancake makeup had tell-tale smudges and didn't fool anyone. Of "reptile skinned" women who had lost 40 pounds since their reptile skins were fitted. Of sideshow strong men whose leopard-hide sarongs looked suspiciously as if they had been made out of jazzy wool auto seat-covers and had great sewn patches on the seats. We think of choking Indian summer dust, levitating in vast billows to float around the arc-lights, or of damp wood-shavings which got into your socks and littered your hair.

It was sad, keeping up the shell when the real thing had fled, and all disillusioning to a youngster who had read books about the old country fairs. So it is with a sigh and one last pluck of the sad note that we say, farewell, R.I.P. and hail to the million-dollar pavilions, the jazz and symphonies, the atomium, and the fancy sit-down restaurants which have fallen heir at Brussels to a heritage.

From Fortune Magazine

THE NAVY EXAMINES TEAMWORK

THE Russians may have more submarines than the United States, but in one respect, at least, their navy lags far behind ours; they don't have nearly so many social scientists as we have.

Perhaps you didn't know that our Navy has social scientists doing work for it. Well, it has; in fact, it has a number of them who talk in code. Sometimes even our side can't understand them.

Consider, for example, a document called "Leader Attitudes and Group Effectiveness," which summarizes the findings of a research project carried on by a task force of United States social psychologists for the office of naval research. For six years they worked on it.

What they were trying to find out was why some small groups work well as teams and others don't. They were particularly eager to see what effect different kinds of personalities had on each other, and thereby on the group's productivity.

This seems a reasonable inquiry and certainly an organization like the Navy should be interested in the findings. The trouble is figuring out what they are.

Here is one of many similar passages: "On the whole, these multiple regressions lend further support to the interpretation that the effective leader's generalized and scientific attitudes toward co-workers complexly interact, resulting in optimum leader-keyman distance.

"This hypothesized distance may be visualized as the sum of the distances engendered by a generalized attitude (ASo) and resulting from a particular interpersonal attitude."

This research project, by the way, is officially known as "ONR Project NR 170-106, N8-ori 07135." That designation alone might give the Russians something to brood about.

Nixon Climbs Into The Saddle With Old Scare Tactics

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON

VICE President Richard M. Nixon is now clearly embarked upon an effort to avert a Republican rout this fall by branding Democrats the war party and Republicans the party of peace.

It is not inconceivable that his strategy might be effective. The time is short. The long-run risks are great. He will be the slave of chance in the Formosa Straits. Red China has already ended the cease-fire which alone made possible the Nixon effort to portray the Quemoy-Matsu situation as a victory.

HAM & EGGS

But in connection with what Red China may do, it must be remembered that the vice president and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, also a deeply partisan politician, are closer than ham and eggs. Nixon talks to Dulles every day and telephones him night and morning on the Nixon travels.

The secretary knows what is being said in those negotiations on the Formosa Straits between the United States ambassador to Poland and the Red Chinese spokesmen. It can be assumed that Nixon knows, too, and feels the ground is firm beneath his feet. Dulles naturally prefers the Nixon position that the Dulles policy has worked and that Democratic critics are appeasers.

SCARE TACTICS

The vice president is not a warm and instinctive politician who feels with people. But he has proved that he knows how to use scare tactics, and his reversion to them should surprise no one.

Nor does it require any massive intuition to realize that the American people plainly don't want any part of war in the Formosa Straits. Their resentment of Marines in the Middle East and the involvement of the Air Force and Navy around Quemoy and Matsu has been widely noted. It is unquestionably a reason contributing heavily to the Democratic trend.

Confronted with gloomy reports of Republican chances everywhere except New York, Nixon decided to make the issue one of Republican peace against Democratic war. Whatever may be said of his course, the old Republican rank and file will like it.

They will like, too, his bold assumption of the leadership of the party. Here he is filling a vacuum President Eisenhower has hardly noticed. It has long been apparent that the organization looked to Nixon; it is the reason his nomination for President in 1960 appears inevitable.

SIDE ISSUE

But today that is a collateral issue only. The truth is that the President is not really going to care greatly about losing face in the party as such, provided Nixon makes it easier for him by treating him with extreme personal deference.

It remains to be seen how the President will react to the Nixon move to take over the foreign policy issue for campaign purposes.

He has always managed to seem not quite aware of the Nixon campaigning and indeed was taking that same attitude as late as at his press conference last week. But the President must acknowledge the present contrast between their two positions.

DEMOCRATS BRACE

The Democrats, too, must brace themselves for the Nixon onslaught. Their natural spokesmen this time are Speaker Sam Rayburn and Senate leader Lyndon B. Johnson, who gave the President his winning majorities on foreign policy issues throughout the last Congress.

Dulles & Nixon: 'Closer Than Ham & Eggs'

With the tide flowing serenely toward their party, both men have been taking it easy. The vice president may bring them out fighting — or possibly even better, ridiculing — his slogans.

People's Platform — Outlawing Strikes Could Only Make State Poor

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

HAVING read the letters of Henry Kaye and L. L. Childress in the Friday edition of The News I would like to say the following.

With people like these two living in our state it is not hard to believe the Oct. 20th issue of Time magazine which quotes Gov. Hodges as selling our state to new industry on the fact that North Carolina has the lowest rate of unionization in the nation (only 8.3 per cent of our non farm workers are organized).

L. L. Childress states that there are many job holders in our city who do not earn near as much as the organized bus drivers. This is very true and again as stated in Time Gov. Hodges is using the low wages as a selling medium. The state of N. C. ranks 48th in the average weekly earnings of manufacturing workers ($47.88).

Figures prove that a union worker making $400 a month makes more than the $200 a month non-union worker even if he is out on strike for say 10 weeks, as in the 1955 Telephone Strike. $3800 to $2400 to be exact, for the year.

Henry Kaye says a law must be enacted to prohibit strikes in any branch of public utility. North Carolina already has a right to work law. There is no law saying a man has to join a union to work. If we outlaw the strike our state will only get poorer.

I also want to say that the bus drivers should be commended on the great support they have given their union.

—G. W. GRISWOLD
Member, Local 3650

Laws Are Needed To Prevent Strikes

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

WE need in America state and federal laws to prevent strikes where a whole city, state or nation is affected.

There are 50,000 or more people in Charlotte who depend on bus transportation, and the City Coach Lines has a franchise to operate the buses. Strikes become a nuisance when they interfere with other people's business.

What good is an increase in wages when most of the increase will go for taxes? The labor unions and the government's farm price supports are the cause of the high cost of living, and every time a strike is called and wages are raised the cost of living goes up with it.

There are millions of workers in this country who never strike and never bellyache about their salaries. There were several bills in congress to curb labor union racketeering, but the members of congress, both Democrats and Republicans, refused to pass any of them for fear they might lose a few union votes. If our politicians were worth the salt that goes into their bread they would pass some laws to force labor and management to get together and settle their differences without a strike.

—PARKS A. YANDLE

Are Court Decisions 'Law Of The Land'?

Whiteville

Editors, The News:

TO THE highly instructive address of Mr. Beverly Lake at Edenton recently, may I add a few comments. The broadside assertion that any decision of the U. S. Supreme Court, as to the race-mixing decision, or otherwise is "the law of the land," is simply a text book example of nonsense, the blending of the silly and absurd, and proponents offer no legal authority whatever in support of their conclusion.

There are two legal propositions involved. The first and only one considered by these proponents, has been settled more than 170 years by the appellate courts of the states, before the Constitution was adopted and the U. S. Supreme Court came into existence, and is no longer open to argument: First, when a case in law or equity comes before the Supreme Court and a constitutional question is involved, and never before decided by the Court, the Court has the unquestioned jurisdiction to decide the question, interpreting the constitutional question for the first time; and the decision becomes the law of the land as to all persons made parties to that particular case and a precedent for the guidance of all courts later considering the same constitutional question.

Now, this jurisdiction of all appellate courts was first decided by our Supreme Court, Nov. Term, 1787, Bayard vs. Singleton, 1 N. C., 5., and sustained ever since. The Virginia Court earlier, 1782, Com. vs. Caton, 4 Call., 21, reached the same conclusion. This case is very notable because written by Judge Wythe, Jefferson law teacher; at an earlier date, The New Jersey Court, 1779, Holmes vs. Wharton, and S. vs. Parkhurst, 9 N. J., L., 444, upheld this jurisdiction, and New York and several New England appellate Courts, about the same time, also so held.

These decisions, all decided before the U. S. Constitution was adopted by the original states, were well known to the Founders, hence this question of admitted jurisdiction was not set forth in the Constitution, being regarded as unnecessary. This jurisdiction was discussed fully by Madison, Hamilton and others, as will appear in The Federalist No. 78. Within three years after the adoption of the Constitution, the U. S. Supreme Court, Hylton vs. U. S., 3 Dallas, 171, first decided it had this jurisdiction, upholding the validity of the statute under consideration — all members of the Constitutional Convention were still alive, but not one of them questioned the decision or jurisdiction thus assumed. Nine years later, and for the first time, the U. S. Supreme Court held void (1803) an act of Congress, Marbury vs. Madison, 1 Cranch, 132, and the 39 members of the Convention, still living, did not question this assumed jurisdiction of the Court. However, during the first 150 years of the Court's history, there was only one instance in which the Court over-ruled a former decision on a question of constitutional law, invariably following the very important and long firmly established rule of Stare Decisis, which means "To abide by and to adhere to cases theretofore decided." If the people of this nation dislike any such decision, they, and they alone, may amend the Constitution accordingly, thus destroying the decision, as was done in the Income Tax law, held to be unconstitutional by the Court and resulting in the XVI Amendment. The second proposition:

The federal government, the executive, legislative, and judicial departments, possess no jurisdiction whatever to amend the U. S. Constitution, either directly or indirectly, the amending power being reserved to the states, or the people thereof. This fact, has never been questioned by any Court, and it is impossible of denial by any court or legal authority. Given due consideration and legal examination, this second proposition "knocks down" the "law of the land" interpretation of the race-mixing decision of the present Court, which has been engaging in amending the Constitution, in case after case, for at least ten years.

My readers will find a highly instructive and learned discussion of the Court's habitual ignoring of the rule of Stare decisis in an address by Mr. Justice Emery B. Denney, of the state Supreme Court, delivered before the Wake Bar last winter and published in the North Carolina Bar. The writer is no racist, having appeared for hundreds of our best Negro citizens in both state and federal courts, during my 50 years' law practice. Summing up my racial views, I may say, that I am firmly convinced that no industrious, self - respecting, and race-proud Negro parent will permit his children to be forced by Court "Order" into white public schools to be used as guinea pigs to put over the fanatical racial philosophy of monolithic liberals, socialists and communists.

—WILLIAM F. JONES

Some Get Inspiration Straight From Nature

Zirconia

Editors, The News:

A READER seems to feel that everyone who doesn't try to attend Billy Graham's Crusade is headed for Hell.

Some of us take our inspiration straight from nature or the spirit of Christ.

From Pope to Graham, it's all "man worship."

—MRS. BOB LINDSEY

'Methinks Something Hath Come Home To Roost'

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round — Ike 'Too Busy'—Except To Play Bridge

CLINTON, Tenn.

IN the main entrance of the Clinton, Tenn., high school, or rather what's left of it, still hangs a poster. It stares at you as you pick your way through the broken glass, the plaster, the splintered desks, the warped lockers where children once put their sweaters and lunchboxes. The sign is eloquent of the problem facing most communities and especially that of this little town today.

It reads: "Are you concerned about your child's education? Make your voice heard."

Voices Just Heard

The voices of Clinton's parents were just being heard regarding a new junior high school when they lost their senior high school. In fact, it was early in the morning of the very same night that the school board met to consider the new junior high school that the senior high school had its classrooms gutted, its brick walls bulged out and its roof destroyed. Now the town needs two schools instead of one.

On the morning of that explosion, people came out in the early dawn in their pajamas, wondering what had happened. In front of them they saw the schoolhouse they had worked hard to build and still had not entirely paid for. It was in ruins.

Strong Men Weep

W. D. Human, principal of Clinton High School, is a strong man. He is strong physically and strong in determination. As he stood looking at the gutted schoolhouse tears rolled down his cheeks. There is nothing so pathetic as a strong man weeping, but Mr. Human's neighbors didn't notice. They were weeping too.

It didn't take the Clinton school board long, however, to recover. R. G. Crossno, the creamery operator in nearby Norris, phoned Gov. Frank Clement in Nashville.

Not A Single Day

"Don't let those children miss a single day of school," the governor urged. "Take them out on the lawn to hold classes if necessary, but show those dynamiters that Clinton High School isn't going to be closed one single day."

The school board followed his advice. Clinton High School has not been closed a single day.

On the first Monday following the Sunday bombing, school was held in the gymnasium. Groups huddled in separate corners of the huge basketball court. Simultaneously the school board was busy working out plans with nearby Oak Ridge to occupy an abandoned building, closed when residents of the atomic energy center moved elsewhere.

All-Out

Oak Ridge officials gave all-out cooperation. Dr. I. P. Cushman, superintendent of Oak Ridge schools, Fred W. Ford, director of county affairs, Fred Peitch, his assistant, pitched in, scrubbed floors, moved desks, helped get the new school at Oak Ridge ready for Clinton's 870 students. In three hectic days this was accomplished.

Whoever it was that so carefully planted three heavy concentrations of dynamite in different parts of the Clinton High School did not succeed in upsetting its curriculum for even one day.

It was only after getting the students relocated in the Oak Ridge school 10 miles away, that the Clinton school board went to Washington to see President Eisenhower. They were philosophical at first about the fact that he would not see them. But after returning home with only a driblet of federal aid promised and after learning that Ike took the afternoon off after being "too busy" to shake hands with them, they are not so philosophical. They are bitter.

Three Days Off

They have now learned that immediately after refusing to see them Eisenhower took three days off playing bridge with Cliff Roberts, his investment broker, Alton Jones of Cities Service, and George Allen, the White House jester; so they are wondering whether the President places bridge-playing ahead of children.

They are especially bitter over the fact that these are children who are a symbol. They are a symbol of the fact that the South did not and does not want to integrate, yet when forced to integrate by Washington gets no help from Washington.