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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1958

Parties Are Made In The Precincts

THAT rustle in the brush of Mecklenburg politics is traceable neither to wintry winds nor the normal comings and goings of casual king-makers.

It is the movement of rival groups and individuals who seek to control the grass roots organizations of both political parties in the county.

Quietly, almost off-handedly, the activity has begun behind the scenes. It is particularly energetic in the Democratic Party, although Democratic precinct meetings will not be held until possibly early May.

Memories of the Jack Love-W. M. Nicholson coup in the county's 1956 precinct contests are still vivid. Certain of the Democratic old guard do not intend to be caught napping again.

Nor is there lethargy in the county's Republican hierarchy. For the first time in years GOP strategists see an opportunity to pluck several plums in local elections.

But this early-bird activity in the brush is not designed to advance party causes so much as personal causes. It is an organizational job that is being done, a lining up of support for various individuals and cliques who seek to take charge of their party's machinery.

The issues will be decided in the precinct meetings.

They will be decided by fair and open elections in neighborhood get-togethers.

But if the past is any prophet, only a handful of zealously committed individuals will turn out for the precinct meetings to decide what sort of political leadership will rise from the grass roots.

It is a pity that this situation exists at all, that so few people take the time to help determine the nature of their political party.

Few adult Mecklenburgers are totally without political loyalties. Yet they carelessly leave the object of their loyalties to be shaped by a tiny minority.

The precinct meeting may appear to be an insignificant cog in a big wheel. Yet the precinct meeting is the source of enormous political power. Together, the precinct organizations determine the whole image of a party. Together, they fashion the party's leadership, its aims, its candidates.

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Mecklenburgers of both parties have a job to do this year. Voting is not enough. They ought to participate in the management of the party of their choice. They ought to become interested caretakers of that party's destiny and respectability. This means they ought to be right there that precinct meeting to order in 1958.

Don't Fret—It's Just A Recession

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S touching faith in the ability of the U. S. economy to respond to treatment would be easier to share if any new treatment was indeed discernible.

It isn't. Yesterday's rosy documentation of White House optimism was merely accompanied by a list of the same past policies which have been so spectacularly unsuccessful in halting the "down-turn."

Actually, the government has a wide range of action possibilities open to it. While business activity is down, prices are still rising in indication of continuing inflationary pressures. The slackening in business is really just beginning.

The factors affecting this downturn are still easily maneuverable. With government more than ever the major force in the economy, a few minor adjustments now before the recession picks up momentum might head off a real economic tragedy.

Instead, the President has made it perfectly clear that the administration will rock along with the very remedies that have failed to produce the kind of results Mr. Eisenhower and the nation want so desperately.

The public, meanwhile, is cheerily advised to have "patience." Patience is a virtue. We hope the newly unemployed and bankrupt have the good sense to enjoy its fine qualities.

Who's This Pest With Common Sense?

EVEN in big-time Detroit, where something called a "metropolitan attitude" is suddenly de rigueur in all the best circles, there were a few well-bred honks of derision when New York Mayor Robert Wagner issued his appeal to Detroit for shorter, slimmer automobiles.

Let's face it. The longer, lower, wider car is just what the citizenry wants. And Detroit is plugged into the citizenry's party line rather than to Mayor Wagner's curiously misplaced common sense.

But Detroit as well as the buying public must be dimly aware that increased width and length in U. S. cars have produced nightmarish problems. In the past ten years, the average parking lot has lost 15 per cent of its usable space while new-car garages have lost 40 per cent.

In some communities, parking meters installed a few years ago in concrete at distances of 20 feet are no longer adequate for handling passenger cars. Traffic jams and congestion on streets and highways have become a king-sized headache.

women's clothes. Like the clothes, the automobile has set off the responsibility of the owner and must not take too long to wear out and be replaced. Given the conditions of city traffic and bumper-to-bumper auto roads on weekends, the swollen, fenders — vulnerable to the slightest dent and abrasion — make no sense in design. They make sense only in obsolescence and show. Similarly, the size and unnecessary extra engine power of the American car are intended to nourish the feeling of magnitude rather than to serve ordinary users. These are all phases of a civilization which has a margin for waste and which has come to regard the luxurious as the necessary.

Yes, but if automobiles could really be likened to midday's clothes the solution would be quite simple. Fenders could be eliminated in Detroit just as skirts are lowered in Paris — at the fashion designer's personal command.

It just doesn't happen to work that way. In the world of dress design, Mama follows orders. In the world of automobile design, what Daddy wants Daddy gets. Daddy wants mambo, and a city of song at that. A tenth of a nation in 1958 whirling like nebulas in an atomic embrace has some unearthly, music-of-the-spheres quality about it that makes one wonder. But, then, Britain has all this and Harwell too.

From The Christian Science Monitor

TRIPPING A MIGHTY FANTASTIC

BRITONS go about their gaiety with as much determination as they must in the face of a Napoleon or a Hitler. But they manage somehow to have the world no on thinking of them as a staid, somewhat grim and dut-stuck race. This accomplishment must be a stroke of national genius, so naturally do they achieve it. So whenever, as now, such news leaks out that 5,000,000 people (10,000,000 goles!) go dancing every week in Britain—well, it is like learning that your favorite dancer sang regularly wins the annual beauty contest around France.

But the report will not put out of step non-Britons who have lived in those secretly rollicking isles, where scholars refuse to pronounce Latin as the Romans would but no respectable charlady would think of Anglicizing "Parlay de Dawnee." This land of Maypoles and Morris dancing has never been inclined to "sit this one out."

British radio provides frequent odd-timers' programs in which all the old regimental two-steps, schottisches, primrose waltzes, or what-do-you-keep-to-day's live firmly in the perspective of history. More than 1,000,000 people a week take the British Isles, it is said. Television dance clubs brighten nights for Britons who have danced "in person" on other evenings and must do

it vicariously while resting up for next week.

In prewar times a quarter of the population of Vienna could be found waltzing on any carefree night in the week, the histories tell us. But Vienna was only one city in a big empire—and a city of song at that. A tenth of a nation in 1958 whirling like nebulas in an atomic embrace has some unearthly, music-of-the-spheres quality about it that makes one wonder. But, then, Britain has all this and Harwell too.

Recent haberdashery notes from Washington indicate that the prevailing mode is the brass hat, strait jacket, rubber hose and the old boot—NEW ORLEANS STATE.

America is the only country where you can get a savings account and free alligator wallet at the same time.—MIAMI HERALD.

There's nothing mysterious about the cost of living increases. Everything has gone up because everything else has.—ROCKMART (G.A.) JOURNAL.

Newspaper headline: 'Presley Defers Fight.' The boy must have something—everything he does makes a hit.—TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT.

Political Doghouse Gets New Tenant In Gas Bill Fight

By DORIS FLEESON

A FRESH blast of scandalous publicity has again directed attention to the basic question of how political campaigns are financed in this republic.

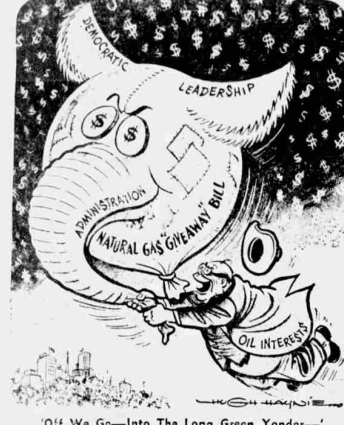
The Texas Republican National Committee, H. J. Porter, is in the apparent position of having collected a \$100,000 campaign fund to reward Republican members of Congress who voted for the bill to remove natural gas from federal regulation.

The White House and the Republican National Committee reacted quickly and sensitively. National Chairman Maule Alesio issued a statement saying the committee would not accept any of the Porter money. Before he could get it into print, the Eisenhower press secretary, James C. Hagerty, said that Porter knew it and approved.

DAMAGING BLOW

It appears also that Porter has struck a damaging if not mortal blow to the project he hoped to help. Another Texan, Speaker Sam Rayburn, is preparing to bring the gas bill, which he favors, to a vote in the House. Now every Republican is urged to vote for it, whatever his reasons, is on the spot.

Porter thus joins in the doghouse the oil lobbyist who two years ago made similar headlines with an offer to contribute to the campaign fund of Sen. Francis Case of South Dakota. Case dis-



Off We Go—Into The Long Green Yonder!

closed the offer, the Senate went through the motions of investigating and President Eisenhower vetoed the gas bill, not because of its terms, but because of its passage.

Now it is clear how little things have changed.

'I've Told You Fifty Times—Not At The Front Door!'



People's Platform

Digging Deeper On 'Right To Work'

Ric. J. Gaxtona

Editors, The News:

THE EDITOR of J. R. Graham who you pointed out, were perfectly true, I am sure that greater efforts would be put forth to expedite the program.

—J. R. PRESTWOOD

Editors, The News:

I WAS delighted to read your editorial on Thursday, Feb. 6, entitled "Big Little Airport Needs Enlarging." The facts that you pointed out, were perfectly true in every respect and if the people in this area actually knew how serious the situation really is, I am sure that greater efforts would be put forth to expedite the program.

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Traffic Jam Hurts Charlotte's Airport

Charlotte

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Is 'Clean Living' Possible Today?

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I WAS asked the other day whether anyone can really live a completely clean life during these tormented times. The answer, of course, is yes. If we can do it now and put our trust in the Savior.

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Another election is impending. The gas bill is up again. The oil and gas interests, who remain the most favored taxpayers of a high tax era with their 27 1/2 per cent depletion allowance, have ample funds to put into political campaigns and are ready and willing to do it. The politicians need campaign chests.

BOARD PRESSURE

The present heat is on the Republicans because of Porter's high party position, but the issue cuts across both parties. All politicians from oil and gas producing states are subject to the same pressures; the Texas leaders of the House and Senate, Rayburn and Lyndon B. Johnson, are in fact, the men who have held the line on the depletion tax and find a place on the Senate and House calendars for the gas bill.

In his own defense, Porter called attention to an "appreciation dinner" given for Johnson in Texas recently. Johnson is as sensitive as the President to the implications of oil and gas money in politics and to mention of his close association with men in that business. Rayburn and Johnson, however, have a grass roots tie to the industry so powerful in Texas.

COOL TO CURES

Many and various propositions have been made to Congress in an effort to solve the problem of campaign contributions which will be free from any taint whether from oil, labor or any other vested interest.

ed interest. Congress is cool to them, seemingly preferring an occasional scandal to any fundamental cure.

Porter seems confident his \$100,000 will find takers. He had offered to put into political campaigns and are ready and willing to do it. The politicians need campaign chests.

"National Committee, the Republican Senate Campaign Committee and the Republican House Campaign Committee." Twenty-four hours later, only the National Committee had said no.



SEN. FRANCIS CASE
 An Offer Disclosed

When 'Yankees Go Home' Limey Jeers Become Tears

By ROBERT C. RUARK

I FIND it most amusing that the British press is beginning to moon about the fact that a couple of seaside towns are beginning to moon, as well, about losing their Yankees.

Places called Margate and Ramsgate, says the London Express, may become more peaceful but a lot less prosperous because the U. S. Air Force is leaving for fresher fields. The headline is "In the Gales, the Puke, the Tard Ranks." They know it's goodbye to All This.

Most of the 300 civilian workers at Margate will lose their jobs as a result of the departure of 2,500 Americans. The tradesmen, city councils and employment officials of the area reckon that the exodus will cost the town \$600,000 a month. The hotels and bars and seaside cafes are screaming their heads off.

TUNE CHANGES

Not so long ago they were also yelling their heads off about the presence of the Americans. The planes made too much noise. The airmen got drunk, as military personnel will, and also stole the girls from the local women. They drove up prices with their free spending habits and astronomical salaries. They chewed gum and talked too loud—all the usual accusations that troops overseas everywhere have suffered.

It is not that they are also occurred in America when heavy concentrations of military men overcrowded the facilities of small towns. The incipient heroes were cursed for their presence, but every small tradesman in town got rich.

COST CLIMBED

Turnover shacks rented for Waldorf prices, and the cost of everything quadrupled. At the same time the local gentry sneered at the uniforms as a social disgrace, and then wept bitter tears when the troops moved on and took illegal prosperity with them.

At the moment there is a movie called "The Tigers Roar," which is a fictionalized presentation of the same problem. Two British mine named Jack Davies and Enoch Lewis are making the film their own. They are making the film their own. They are making the film their own. They are making the film their own.

Many of the biographies and autobiographies written during the last three decades show how generally this view is accepted, even by those not consciously