



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Labor Enters The Era Of No Nonsense

ALTERNATING interludes of piety and pugnacity masked the real business of the first annual AFL-CIO convention in Charlotte this week.

Perhaps the primary task was to cement in fact as well as theory a tentative marriage of social convenience as anyone could imagine.

But during the ceremonial rites, the rank and file heard some unusually refreshing tough-talk on the realities of labor's role in what we hope can be called the post-Beck or no-nonsense era of trade unionism.

There was little of the exalted mysticism of the "Golden Age" when U. S. labor was still rising from penury to power. The popularity of the hairshirt has receded. In fact even the Gospel According to Gompers would sound a little anachronous as an antidote to the crass realities of 1958. For it has been proved rather conclusively that copybook maxims cannot bring religion to the Becks, the Brewsters and the Hoffas.

Instead of Plain Murray's ancient anthem about "bread and butter and pictures on the wall and carpets on the floor and music in the home," Tar Heel workers got some oratorical cold turkey about communists, crooks and recessions.

They discussed some practical ways in which the economy can be bolstered and social opportunities improved by astute political action.

On and off the platform, labor leaders were willing to assess coolly and realistically the changing image of organized labor. They realize that the

honeycomb is over, that the public's patience has been strained by recent misadventures and that labor's in-group better have done lasting damage.

They seem to realize, too, as A. H. Raskin noted recently, that the only hope for a real reformation lies in the painfully slow process of winning a basic acceptance among employers and the unionists themselves that there is something more important than a fast buck or peace bought at the expense of the worker, the stability of an industry or the welfare of the community. Finally, they acknowledge that labor's rank and file, long used to docility, will have to find its voice.

What does labor want today? Delegates to the Charlotte convention answered this question in many a resolution and speech. None, however, put it any better than Tar Heel Labor Commissioner Frank Crane did in 1955 in a speech at Seneca.

"I believe that five things are uppermost in the minds of most workers," said Mr. Crane. "These are (1) security, (2) recognition, (3) good wages, (4) safe and healthful places of employment, and (5) opportunities for advancement."

These in their practical applications just happen to be what everybody wants, in or out of the labor movement, and therein hangs a lesson. It is that the future of labor lies in serving the community interest as well as the shop interest. If labor works for the security of all, labor can best obtain its own long sought security.

A Blow For Conscience And For Law

A MECKLENBURG jury and Judge A. Zeb Nettles have sent three Ku Klux Klansmen on their way to prison for plotting to bomb a Negro school.

The conclusion of the Superior Court trial appears to satisfy the law and the conscience of this community, both of which were deeply involved in the case.

It should also serve as a stern warning that Charlotte and Mecklenburg will not tolerate destructive and hateful acts of stupidity on the part of men who take the law into their own hands and who have no knowledge of or concern for what the law says.

It is instructive to recall when such cases come up the protestations of piety and peacefulness made by the Klan in recent years. It has been six years since the Klan was "put out of business" in North Carolina for a long string of out-

rages in Columbia County. Its revival has been accompanied by much spoken emphasis on lawfulness, religiousness and orderliness. But inevitably the cross is burned, the white sheet is soiled with dirt or blood and the fine, cynical words are forgotten. An organization built essentially on hate simply cannot keep itself within the bounds of law.

When it oversteps those bounds, a community must respond quickly and decisively or invite a contagion of hate and lawlessness.

In Mecklenburg, there has been that kind of response from the police, judge and jury, and all citizens should feel safer for it. However much the Klan may claim to hate one race or group, it is an enemy of the whole community.

If it were not, it would abide by the laws of the community.

An Answer For Percy Bysshe Shelley

THE arrival of spring on the day appointed for it by the calendar doubtless would result in a riot of good feeling in the northern reaches of the nation where citizens are still bent over their snow shovels.

An on-time spring in the South, however, is the cause of much muttering and resentment, and rightly so because an independence of the calendar has been one of the nicer rewards of southern living. Spring and summer, according to custom, are supposed to arrive early, while fall and winter are expected to be lagged. This scheme of things has made possible picnics in November and sun-baths in March and the calendars could go hang, as most of them have. In all this there has been the delicious taste of anarchy—calendars that govern best govern the least and that sort of thing, you know.

But this spring—and what a sudden

and bedraggled appearance she has made—is a conformist. She arrived, a frail and feeble shadow of spring past, on the day appointed. She brought pitifully little baggage—daffodils that are budded but reluctant to bloom, the most tentative sproutings of willow leaves, an incoherent chorus of peepers and, on all sorts of trees and vines, buds that are only beginning to break their stitches. In fairness, it must be said that the wild onions are putting on a splendid show, making brown lawns look as if they had never mowed, and making householers look as if they had the colic.

Long ago a wordsmith named Percy Bysshe Shelley raised a question about the weather and thoughtlessly died without answering it.

The question was: "If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?"

The answer, dear friends, is "yes."

Weimer Jones In The Franchise

TEACHER SHORTAGE

WHY is it so hard to get enough teachers for the schools?

A friend has passed along the following purported letter to a county superintendent, first published in the *TEXAS OUTLOOK*, as a possible answer to the question:

"Dear Superintendent:
"I appreciate your kind offer of a job for my girl, Mary. She had her heart set on being a school teacher, but I talked her out of it. Teachin' school is too much like being a preacher's wife. It's a high callin', but people expect you to give more'n they pay for."

"You take the teachers here in town. The only difference between them and the Christian martyrs is the date and the lack of bonfire. They were hired to teach and they do it. They teach the youngsters that learn and they entertain the ones that fell on their heads when they were little. But that ain't enough. They are supposed to make obedient little angels out of spoiled brats that were named nobody and to wendure the little wildcats so their mother can get a rest and make geniuses out of children that couldn't have no sense with the parents they got now."

"But that ain't the worst. They got to get up shows and plays to work the school out of debt, and to sing in the choir and to teach a Sunday school class, and when they ain't doin' nothin' else, they're supposed to be a good example."

"On top of everything else, they can't hold hands comin' home from prayer

meeting without some zippy old sister struttin' a scandal on them. It's just as soon as a plow mule as teacher. A mule works just as hard, but it can relieve its soul by kickin' up its heels after outlin' time without startin' any talk. I appreciate your kind offer and may the Lord take mercy on you and your teachers, but my daughter ain't interested."

According to one critic of our educational system, our children don't know how to "communicate." You mean all those hours on the telephone don't count?—JACKSONVILLE TIMES UNION.

In our day, 40 years or more after his death, an enemy of Billy the Kid was an enemy of ours. —DALLAS MORNING NEWS.

The Smithsonian Institution has acquired a fossil sardine 16 feet long — it was from Texas, where it preyed on smaller fish which had no depletion tax. —MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR.

The main trouble with Russian roulette is that there are not enough Russians playing it. —GREENVILLE (S.C.) PIEDMONT.

Who can remember the days when it took more patience than money to be a patient?—ROCKMART (GA.) JOURNAL.

Elvis Presley may have to don a space helmet to keep pace with the current tempo. —JACKSON (MISS.) STATE TIMES.

The Democratic Ideal: A Vision Of Truth And Justice

By PAUL GREEN

Editor's Note: One of Tar-Heel's foremost literary figures examines the origin and meaning of America's democratic ideal in this consideration of a recent Capitol Hill address.

WHAT is this democratic ideal of ours?

It is a vision, an intuition of a nation, of a world of free and self-reliant men — men of good will, of truth and justice. It is a philosophy of government which declares that each individual of whatever race, color, creed or calling has a right as well as a duty to his fullest self-development and the exercise of his talents as becomes the dignity and worth of a man.

It is an ideal then of self-government, of liberty and rights and of the responsibility to these liberties and rights.

ANCIENT ORIGIN

The ideal began long ago. It appeared for a while in the glory that was Greece. It was put forth in fervent and dramatic terms in the life and character of Jesus Christ and the New Testament. A fragment of its shape showed itself in the Magna Carta in the words saying, "To no man will we deny or delay right or justice." And in the first legislative assembly in the New World at Jamestown in 1619 it was seeking a re-statement and social practice when the Burgesses met "to make, ordain, and establish all manner of orders, laws, directives, instructions, forms and constitutions of government and magistracy fit and



GEORGE WASHINGTON
These Blazing Truths . . .

And again and again this same Thomas Jefferson discerned the bright lineaments of the American ideal, asserting that "truth is great and will prevail" — that she is the proper and sufficient antagonist to error and has nothing to fear from the conflict unless by human interposition disarmed of her natural weapons — free argument and debate, errors ceasing to be dangerous when it is permitted freely to contradict them.

The one certain defense against unworth being truth. Against error to oppose the right. Against evil to put forward the good. Not by arms alone shall the palm of victory be won. For it is in the hearts and minds of men that the city is taken or made safe.

And not once but many times George Washington, the first founder of our new republic, spoke his courageous words, his devotion and faith for us all. In his famous letter to the governors of the separate states — alas, not known enough in our school rooms especially — at the end of the Revolution he reiterated his devotion to the American ideal.

I now make it my earnest prayer that God would have you and the state over which you preside in His holy protection; that He would incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of submission and obedience to government; to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another, for their fellow citizens of the United States at large and particularly for their brethren who have served in the field; and finally, that He would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to despise vainglory, and to be characterized by the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and with an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can hope to be a happy nation.

Justice, mercy, charity, humility and peace! A nation grounded in the principles of truth and religion!

And again in his Farewell Address this strong-hearted and good man addressed us, you and me and our children's children, to remember that "of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of Men and Citizens."

REASON AND CANDOR

And further in the same address he continues with reasoned and candid earnestness — "Observe good faith and justice towards all Nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all. Religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of Men and Citizens."

BLAZING WORDS

The right to happiness! Their just powers! The consent of the governed! These true and blazing words — as deep as time and simple, as richly invigorating and full of hope as the beckoning far horizon.

And in his Common Sense the tough and eloquent Thomas Paine declared the same, saying further, too, that "the cause of America is in great measure the cause of all mankind."

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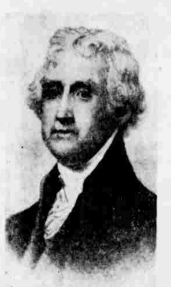
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mended by every sentiment which embodies human nature.

And in a letter written by Warren Seais of the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island, to Gen. Washington in 1790 — this leader among his Jewish people declared his devotion to the American vision, saying of the new government that he and his people found it offered "to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, but generously affording to all liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship, deeming every one of whatever nation, tongue or language equal parts of the great Government machine. This so ample and extensive union whose basis is philanthropy, mutual confidence and public virtue, we cannot but acknowledge to be the work of the great God who ruleth in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth, doing whatever seemeth Him good."

Again and again through the documents of these our founding fathers and statesmen we find this summons, this challenge — this plea for liberty of conscience, of speech, of the press, of the right of the people peacefully to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of their grievances.

And finally in one grand sum-



THOMAS JEFFERSON
... Kindled A Vision

mation our Constitution itself re-dedicates us to these principles of the ideal — freedom of religion, of speech, of the press, of the right of the people peacefully to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of their grievances.

For this is religion, this faith of ours. It is of the spirit then, and the spirit it must be served. Or it will perish.

security of a man in his person and property, due process of law, habeas corpus, trial by jury and freedom from slavery and servitude as become a reliant and courageous people.

Old, old words, but ever new, ever fresh in their rights and their meaning.

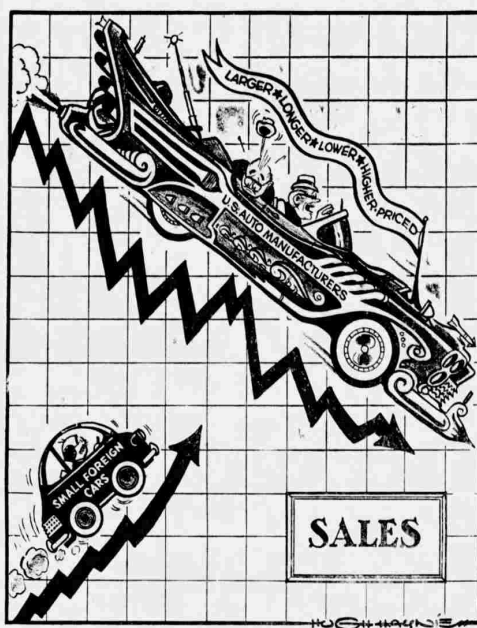
ELEMENTS OF STRENGTH

These are the constituents, the elements of moral and social strength then, the truths that go into the making of our philosophy of government — the true doctrine out of which our political faith has taken shape and grown.

In defense of these principles a horrible and degrading Civil War was fought and won, Abraham Lincoln lost his life, a sacrifice in their behalf, and the great Robert E. Lee serving these principles as he fell them to be plunged into the life and death struggle, and Woodrow Wilson and likewise thousands of other men have given their all that the right should prevail.

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Tut, Tut—We Know What The Public Wants



Dixie Dissents

Soapy Eyes The Presidency

By DORIS FLEESON

DETROIT, Mich. — The presidential prospects of Gov. G. Mennen Williams depend on the possibility that growing Democratic strength in the West and Midwest can and will coalesce with the party's liberal organizations of the industrial states and the North.

The Michigan governor is one of the most successful politicians in the country. He is seen as a certain winner of a sixth term in fall and he has led in the establishment of firm Democratic control of this important state which for many years was stamped normally Republican.

DIXIE'S DISSENT

He is, however, anathema to the powerful southern minority of his party which cannot now name a candidate for President but seeks to exercise a veto power over anyone to whom it strongly objects. It objects to Williams because he is, in his own words, "a Southerner at heart."

He has come a long way from the sophisticated loyalty oath operation of 1952. In fact, his present strategy is strongly reminiscent of the manner in which Thomas E. Dewey, that never widely popular Republican, managed to get two presidential nominations.

In his state chairman, Neil Stabler, Williams has a quiet

adroit organizer. Stabler has kept out of the limelight and has stifled all attempts to put him forward as national chairman. Instead, he has been serving as chairman of an advisory committee on party organization in the 48 states. Probably no one today has a better acquaintance with the rank-and-file workers who make up national convention delegates.

Outside the South, those same delegates are also studied with trained labor politicians. From such men Williams will not get the worst of it.

FAMILIAR TECHNIQUE

Reporters who watched Tom Stephens march the Dewey forces at a national convention will recognize the technique. The big shots give the interviews but the courthouse politicians pick the man who knows them and with whom their connections are well-established and thoroughly understood.

The effort to make Williams' abilities better known is already underway. The current *Harvard Business Review* has an article in which he answers a persuasive yes to the question, "Can businessmen be Democrats?" He can be expected also to make many appearances outside the state, and while no one will yet even discuss his chances of winning the nomination, he will be a familiar figure in the eyes of winning friends and influencing people.

Stabler, Williams has a quiet

People's Platform

Tax Collector Ought To Get Up And Get Dodge

Editors, The News: Charlotte

THERE is plenty of room for the tax collectors to work fast and wide job, but their time around the tax office should be to turn in their collections and keep after those who

dodge their tax bills.

As much as \$10,000 in 1948 tax money was lost by the government. It climbs up to more than \$800,000 for 1957. Of course, they may say "hard times" and "right money" but those excuses do not apply for them all the way back ten years.

—S. C. VAUGHN

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON — It looks as if the White House missed a great opportunity in filling the shoes of Richard M. Nixon, the Federal Communications Commission. The man he appointed, John Cross, is a likable, pedestrian, bureaucratic, honest engineer, but without special ability and with no real concept of the importance the FCC can play in the American way of life.

So Anxious To Please

However, he comes from Arkansas, home state of Congressman Orr Harbo, now chairman of the Legislative Oversight Investigating Committee, and the White House is anxious to please the man who was about to cross-examine Sherman Adams, Ike's brother-in-law.

Longer Terms?

1-Pick high calibre commissioners, not some bureaucrats. 2-Appoint commissioners for more than seven years, so they won't have to go home and plead with their radio-TV executives. A commissioner now thinks twice before he antagonizes the

Change Of Mind

Gridiron Club shifts so rough on go jobs have been seven years ago last week. The Eisenhower administration last week that assistant president Sherman Adams, who had accepted an invitation to see a

Glum Reactions

Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks, reportedly involved in the award of Channel 5 in Boston to the Herald-Traveler, looked glum. Bob E. E. publisher of the Herald-Traveler, said nearby. He looked glummer.