



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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MONDAY, MAY 12, 1958

Bell Is Best Qualified For The Senate

THE choice before Mecklenburg Democrats in the State Senate race must, in the final analysis, be one of positive merits and qualifications.

Any other yardstick of judgment would be less than adequate and less than fair to this county's high hopes and aspirations.

Long and sober consideration of the positive merits and qualifications of all three candidates leads us to the honest conviction that J. Spencer Bell should be nominated on May 31.

The final decision belongs to the voters. It is theirs and theirs alone to make. But that decision in this particular race involves so much that is vital and important to Mecklenburg's future that we feel compelled to express our own deeply held belief.

It is that Mecklenburgers owe it to themselves to return J. Spencer Bell to the Senate of North Carolina.

RARELY has a man appeared on the local political scene so well equipped to lead, to inspire and most effectively to serve.

Here is a man who throws away the false empty phrases of the politician and replaces them with independent wisdom, courage and candor.

Here is a man who not only possesses unusual mental gifts but also the inner vision to see beyond the issues of the moment to more distant goals.

Drafted by his party to represent Mecklenburg in Raleigh following the unfortunate death of Sen. Jack Blythe, J. Spencer Bell swiftly became one of the State Senate's wisest and most persuasive voices in 1957.

His leadership in securing for Charlotte the General Assembly's authorization of an election on city limits extension was invaluable. But he also exerted a profound influence on vital statewide legislation. His knowledge and his judgment were here and for the county he represented the respect of a public body that has not always been friendly to Mecklenburg's aspirations.

Perhaps the most striking illustration of J. Spencer Bell's qualities of leadership, however, is his court study. As chairman of the Committee on Improving and Expediting the Administration of Justice in North Carolina, he has launched one of the most penetrating and thoughtful studies of a state's judicial system in the nation's history. Under his resourceful leadership, the committee is at work on reforms designed to rescue the courts of North Carolina from the brambles of chaos and inefficiency.

Not only the people of Mecklenburg but the people of North Carolina as a whole will need Sen. Bell's leadership in the legislative battle for a better court system in 1959. Court reform is

Ghostly Mementos Haunt Democrats

DESPITE the angry shouts and eye-rolling oratory at Saturday's convention, the Democratic Party organization in Mecklenburg County looked suspiciously like the same old haunted house today.

It has real significance only to a few old cops who believe in ghosts and cling tenaciously to symbols forged by a past that is dead.

To the extent that it has meaning to the voters at large, it is mainly in terms of ancient animosities and loyalties.

The airy claim that W. M. Nicholson "fired the party up" when he won and lost the chairmanship had a nice exciting ring to it. It also served conveniently as a face-saving device for Mr. Nicholson who played along with the gag magnificently.

Perhaps Mr. Nicholson did awaken the party. But to what, exactly, did the party awaken?

Did it open its eyes to a new order? Did it discover any new ideas around which the faithful could rally? Was it able to produce a single issue of any conceivable popular appeal to the thousands who have bolted to greener political pastures?

No. The party merely opened its eyes to ghostly mementos of the past. The great "struggle for power" in the precincts and the convention was merely a clash of personalities. There were no ideas involved. Nobody stood for any



Sen. J. Spencer Bell

obviously one of the great issues of the century in North Carolina.

IT IS HARDLY necessary to document Sen. Bell's record of service at the community level. His forceful and courageous efforts to establish city limits planning as a means of promoting and encouraging the orderly growth of metropolitan Mecklenburg are well known. As president of the Social Planning Council, he laid the groundwork for the successful campaign to improve the hospital facilities for all members of the community — white and Negro. His dedicated service to such important community causes as the United Appeal have strengthened his reputation as a leader with a well developed social conscience.

HERE is a man of conviction and enormous moral courage who has a firm, sure grasp of the problems of Mecklenburg and of North Carolina. He is equipped with a sound and vital core of ideas. He has already given Mecklenburg's legislative delegation new intellectual vigor.

This county needs this man's intelligent, logical and wholly civilized mind at work on its problems in Raleigh. It needs a man, too, who will stand up squarely to the test of his own applied principles. Such a man is J. Spencer Bell.

We earnestly believe that Sen. Bell is the man for Mecklenburg in the Senate.

thing. There was not an issue to be found anywhere, unless empty labels such as "Old Guard" and "Love-Nicholson machine" could be called issues. When the dust had settled, the Old Guard was back in command of the party. It had cooed to sleep years before. The vicious circle was complete.

The only invigorating note was the presence of so many eager amateurs who may some day make up what could be called a New Guard. If they learned anything at all Saturday it was that the real struggle—the crucial struggle—for power in the Democratic Party in Mecklenburg must be waged between the past and the future. It must be fought with real ideas and real issues and not with a tiresome personalities and Saturday's ghostly mementos.

Loyalty is not enough. Nor is tradition. The electorate must have something it can see and feel and believe in.

There is no health in a party organization that insists on continuing to fight battles of the 1920s and the 1930s in an age of fresh challenges and new opportunities. The Democratic Party will never move forward until it is emptied of its old symbolism, its divisive influences and mental attitudes fashionable a quarter of a century ago.

Every act of courage or timidity, greed or sacrifice, indignation or complacency, will be meaningless until these lessons are learned.

We realize, at this late date, that tar is made from asphalt and petroleum products. More easily digestible materials were easier to come by, but they did not hold the fascination of tar. The rumor was general that "chewing tar" would give one nearly breath. That was important to roughnecks just beginning to notice that there was a second sex, particularly for the boy who had failed in all attempts to plaster his hair tight to his scalp.

People's Platform

Edwards, The News: NORTH Carolina has remained among the free states of the union because it has remained organized on the township principle. When I served in the state legislature I noticed the many inroads that were being constantly made on the townships to consolidate the state into districts, covering many townships. The township idea has withstood the test of time because it is so representative and so close to the people.

If one could see a roster of the hundreds of names of the townships comprising North Carolina many names would cause a chuckle. The names of many are humorous, but no legislator ever dared to reflect scorn toward a township because of its name, lest he affront a proud people who resided there.

The idea of consolidation is not new. It seems to mean simply a centralization of power, authority and control. Incorporated cities like Atlanta and others have swallowed up not one whole township but several, and so they have usurped and exercised power, all out of proportion to the reality of religion, economics, power, politics, education, health and welfare. It is not merely the geographic extension of boundaries, but a consuming appetite of the new behemoth corporation that must feed upon the vitality of the weaker neighbors that alarms freedom thinking people. For instance, witness the giant New York City reaching into the last free lands of the Iroquois Indians of New York State. Can you blame them for their alarm?

And so I beg all of our people to consider and reconsider the question before consolidating their schools of the townships outside of corporate Charlotte with those within the corporate limits. If they wish to preserve the strength of the township tradition in North Carolina history, then keep the schools close to the people. I speak the same for all county functions. I am proud of Mecklenburg County and I will even be of Charlotte, but Charlotte is seeking to swallow up Mecklenburg County. I urge you to find ways to keep the political candles stand before voting them into places of authority. Home rule, home government, home responsibility should be the watchwords of a free Mecklenburg. Consolidation, I have found in my experience, will all but wipe out the bedrock of freedom that has been nurtured on the township principle in North Carolina history.

Would you be happy with only one large religion or church, or one newspaper, or one superstore to service you in this county? All of these things are the result of consolidation and are indicative of Russian slavery.

—MERCER J. BLANKENSHIP
Selection Of Judges
Belongs To Citizens

Edwards, The News: THE legal talent has thrown a bombshell into the free privilege of the voting public. We have made some selections that we have since regretted, but they were not for judges. Our last judge that was selected by the voters in Mecklenburg County was Judge Hugh Campbell, and we believe the voters who voted for him would do so again, if given the opportunity, and that is a fair sample of the selection of the voters of this grand old Mecklenburg County.

For the past six years we have not at all been pleased, but we are going to try and correct this in 1958. However, this is not pertaining to a judgeship, and was not a Democratic selection. It was an over-the-fence stunt and we feel sure that many of those who went over the fence, will come back over the fence as to keep the others who did not go over, from seeing them on their return flight.

Those who have had the privilege of spreading the poison about the shambled voters may regret it, for it might have been

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Editors' Note: Drew Pearson is now in Italy, covering the forthcoming Italian elections—the first national vote of a major western power since the Russian Sputnik. This is his first dispatch from Rome.

MISSING modern, thriving, energetic Mecklenburg today brings a lot of memories. They go back a long way and encompass a lot of the heartaches, the woes, the political ups and downs, and the great human victories of Italy. The first memory goes back to the days before Mussolini, right after World War I when I arrived in Rome to find a young man, an economist, young tourist taking a couple of weeks off from postwar reconstruction work in Mecklenburg to go back to the ruins of ancient Rome. Rome was sleepy, lethargic and delightful. It was also a city with patriotic loyalties that it alone had won the war and of nationalistic demands for Fiume, parts of Austria and the Adriatic coast. Stopping in Fiume en route back to Yugoslavia I was arrested by swaggering Italian carabinieri because I spoke Serb. An American passport was general that "chewing tar" would give one nearly breath. That was important to roughnecks just beginning to notice that there was a second sex, particularly for the boy who had failed in all attempts to plaster his hair tight to his scalp.

Next Memory
My next memory of Italy was in 1923. Mussolini had just taken over. It was his proud boast that the trains now ran

Consolidation Endangers 'Bedrock Of Freedom'



Mecklenburg Must Keep Schools Close To The People

far better to have held in check such for another time. However, it is no use to grieve over split milk. There are always some who go beyond themselves at the wrong time. It's a good policy not to leap before you know where you are going to land, you sometimes go down too deep to pull out.

Our voting privilege is 180 years old this month, and we are not going to surrender it to one person's challenge. Therefore, each of you, at the ballot box, remember you want to hold to that long and true privilege, and that you are yet able to do your own voting when it comes to selecting the judges, so be careful when you vote your choice for state senator on May 31. If you are not posted on this, get posted before you put your ballot in the box.

We do not want this system of appointing judges for North Carolina or the nation. Keep yourselves clear on this: we do not want any fumbles on this one privilege — voting, and selecting one to serve the public. That's for you.

Why think that love and righteousness can ever win out? He who marked the sparrow's fall saw redemption for the meek. Did He expect us to catch glimpses of that glorious day as we read that He chose the dove instead of the eagle, the hen instead of the goat, the plowshare instead of the sword.

CONSUME MORE PRODUCERS' GOODS



Mussolini Didn't Keep His Promise

He was genial, friendly, talked about the need for a free press, free speech.

Into Exile
Next day his home was ransacked by a gang of Fascists, his furniture broken, his papers strewn about the street. I went into exile. I doubt if my interview and anything I wrote with the raid, as Hitler's pro-democratic statements, to me had not yet been published. The raid was just part of the Fascist technique of stamping out not only communism but all political opposition.

There was another visit to Italy—in 1936 when an arrogant Fascist regime had just ridden roughshod over help less Ethiopia. It was a visit I remember with no pleasure.

Communist Banished?
I have thought of that interview many times during recent visits and especially today as Italy prepares to go for the polls in a great national test of Communist strength. Banishment of communism or any political party by force means the end of the party. The Marshall Plan was not yet born. The brand new Republic, raising all the democratic elements brought by Mussolini, was struggling to hold together a defeated, discouraged people, many of them tempted by the promises of communism.

World Swayed By Hand Of God

Editors, The News: WHY is there more light than darkness, more calm than storm, more kindness than cruelty, more joy than sorrow, more plenty than famine? Probably because there are more good people in the world than bad people. But may it not be also because the whole universe leans that way because the Hand that creates and sways all so arranged it? Mean as man is, he can hardly destroy the universe!

Why think that love and righteousness can ever win out? He who marked the sparrow's fall saw redemption for the meek. Did He expect us to catch glimpses of that glorious day as we read that He chose the dove instead of the eagle, the hen instead of the goat, the plowshare instead of the sword.

A Dole Is Better Than Empty Promises
Editors, The News: WE HAVE those here at home who are opposed to aid for our needy. Some of our high gov-

ernment leaders call such aid a dole, a handout for nothing in return. I would like to ask what have our people at home who pay the bills and in return from those kept up for so long a time by the foreign aid program.

Our people need help, whether by a dole or what have you, although we realize that it has been the policy of the present administration for a good while to spend our people's tax dollars on things and people who are nothing to the American people and of no help to our people at any time. It's always a good trip for like and a trip for Dick Nixon to some other part of the world.

They should realize they were elected to serve the American people's needs first at home. Let the President call it what he may, a dole is better than promises and talk that helps no one, not even the President.

— J. A. GRAHAM

Three Tips For History Teachers
Editors, The News: HERE ARE a few suggestions for history teachers:

(1) Skip the novel or students read a good historical novel or a biography that will help them relive the epoch being studied. Historical events become a part of their living experiences as they read and study.

(2) An interview with the older people in the community will make children realize that many interesting events happened before they were born that they need to know.

(3) The past reflects what may happen again. Students of history know that Churchill was a better ruler because he was a good historian.

The present is another reflection of what is to be and most history students become aware of this. The fine reportorial work which you do in connection with newspaper coverage of the Ninety-Eighth General Assembly.

— JAMES W. JEWELL

News Stories Boost Voice Of The Church

Editors, The News: ON BEHALF of the First Presbyterian Church, we thank you for the fine reportorial work which you do in connection with newspaper coverage of the Ninety-Eighth General Assembly.

Your fine work helped make this Assembly one of the best public history of the General Assembly. Your reportorial work increased the voice of our church in its efforts toward mass communication.

—LEE STOFFEL, PHIL HOWERTON AND JONES FARR

Airport Emergency Plan Worked Well

Editors, The News: HAVING HAD the pleasure of working with and for the aviation development of our community for some time, I want to express my highest praise and commendation to the various organizations and agencies who pulled into action our previously arranged emergency plans at our municipal airport. The action of these various people last Thursday in placing these emergency plans into being, doubtless decreased substantially the possibility of resulting bodily injury or property damage in this passenger plane emergency procedure.

While we are constantly working for better facilities and air service, it makes me indeed proud to know that our plans for such emergencies are likewise in 100 percent readiness and should justify the confidence the flying public has placed in aviation. To the gallant firemen, police, airport emergency line personnel and to the cooperating doctors, nurses and operators of emergency aircraft, a hearty WELL DONE.

— MAULSTER CARSON JR.

Strong Table
Next day the Friendship Train started its tour of Italy's chief cities, stopping en route to drop off boxcars and explain how and why the American people were interested in Italy's new start as a nation.

learned a little that to Gortia I was second. I delivered it from on top of a table, the public square standing beside the Prince Cardinal who weighed 200 pounds. It was a strong table.

Great changes have taken place since I visited Italy in World War I, even greater changes since its first big election 10 years ago. I shall endeavor to report these changes in future columns.

From The Mattoon (Ill.) Journal-Gazette

CHEWING TAR

A RECENT fire in a tar pot here reminded us that the pots are not extinct, but neither are they as common as they seemed to be in our carefree childhood.

The bubbling and steaming cauldrons were then the delight of children and the despair of parents. There seemed always to be one in action with a block or two, repairing roofs or streets.

The men who used them spent perhaps half the time working and the other half telling townsmen to stand back, there, sun. When they left for the day, the urchins waited for the tar