

How About A Poll Tax For Non-Voters?

THIS Charlotte citizen was aroused, over an issue most people view with apathy. He was mad because so many people don't vote. He had two suggested remedies.

(1) Pass a law requiring that people who fail to vote, would be ineligible to vote in the next election unless they registered again;

(2) Publish in the newspapers the names of all persons not voting in a given election.

The fault of those two suggestions is, in our opinion, that neither would materially increase the number of voters. They might even decrease the number. Persons who missed one election would be more likely to miss the next if they had to make another trip to register. And although publication of tax delinquency lists adds collection, neither the disparate nor threat of penalty that attends tax delinquency hangs over the heads of delinquent voters.

But his suggestions set the wheels turning, grinding out this suggestion: How about a poll tax, not as a requisite for voting, but as a penalty for non-voting?

Several countries have penalties for non-voting. They include, among others,

North Carolina: 'It Has Twin Instruments Of Progress'

By HARRY S. ASHMORE

(Editors' Note: This discussion of the secrets of Tar Heel progress was excerpted from a Founder's Day address at Woman's College of the University of North Carolina in Greensboro. Mr. Ashmore, former editor of The Charlotte News, is now executive editor of the Arkansas Gazette.)

WHEN I was growing up in South Carolina, and beginning to practice journalism there, I like most of my neighbors, tended to view North Carolina with some alarm. If we had aristocratic pretensions, and most of us did whether or not we were entitled to them, we considered our northern neighbors a rude lot—occupants, in the old phrase, of a valley of humility between the mountains of arrogance that are Virginia and South Carolina. If our interests were economic, we had to recognize North Carolina as a dangerously successful competitor. In all the statistical comparisons—per capita income, literacy, percentage of college graduates, even the standings of our football teams—we ran a poor second and it galled us.

Later I was to move to North Carolina and took over the editorial chair of a North Carolina newspaper, The Charlotte News. Then, of course, produced a marked change in perspective. What I had recently viewed with alarm, I now pointed to with pride—and so I took my place in that legion

of Tar Heel rosters who are section only to Texans in their pride of place.

**'INDIAN COUNTRY'**

Still later, I followed the historic westward across the mountains and took up my residence on the rim of the old Confederacy—in territory still looked upon, I know by some of the old neighbors of the Eastern Seaboard as Indian Country. Out there, in the great valleys of the Mississippi, I found still another viewpoint on North Carolina. In Arkansas, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, I discovered more with it feeling that North Carolina is remote and alien—that somehow, despite its history and its accent, North Carolina isn't really southern.

**BY ITSELF**

For better or worse, it is quite true that North Carolina stands apart from the other southern states. It stands apart, in my view, because in most important ways, it stands out in front. I have often had occasion to reflect on why this is so, and those reflections are pertinent to this observation of the founding of this institution.

I am sure that geography had a good deal to do with it. North Carolina is no more blessed with soil and climate than its neighbors to the north and west. Indeed, the contrary is true, for in the beginning its lack of water barrier to the west kept the state out of the main currents of migration and of commercial transportation. With no great port to sustain it, the antebellum plantation economy and its concurrent feudal culture did not flourish here so widely as it did elsewhere along the seaboard. Rather North Carolina came early under the dominance of the Scotch-Irish, who tended to drift toward the highlands, and who brought with them as traits of liberty in political and social conservatism in social custom. From the beginning North Carolina was blessed with able leaders, but few are given first rank in our national history. There were no Jeffersons here, and no Calhouns.

**MAJOR BLESSING**

And that, I think, turned out to be a major blessing. I have always contended that the author who contributed most to the downfall of the Old South was not Harriet Beecher Stowe but Sir Walter Scott. I doubt that any people ever fed so long and so consistently upon romantic dreams as did the people of the pre-Civil War South—or if not the people, at least those who sat in the seats of authority. There was a certain magnificence about this that still commands respect. Evidence of this is in Rhet Butler's acute observation that the Confederacy was the only nation in history to start a war when it didn't need a cause. I do not contend that North Carolina was untouched by the romantic fever that seemed to grip the South in the first half of the last century. If somewhat reluctantly



OUT OF THE WILDERNESS, A NEW NORTH CAROLINA State Fair Arena At Raleigh

—with some North Carolinians fighting on the wrong side and others sitting out the whole business—North Carolina did enter the lists with the Confederacy.

**NO ILLUSIONS**

But North Carolinians were always more concerned with the reality than with the illusion, and it is for this reason, I think, that you have done a better job over the years with the twin tasks of carving a stable economy out of the wilderness and establishing an orderly society. There is, in fact, a significant difference in the tradition of North Carolina and that which prevailed in the other seaboard states and was transmitted intact to the new cotton empire in the West. And so, after the rigors of war and Reconstruction, North Carolina was the first to move out on the road to reunion and to begin the march which has put this state in the vanguard of the southern region.

The two great instruments of your progress in recent years have been your system of public education and your press. I would be the last to argue that either is without serious imperfections. Yet neither is professional educator who would rate any other southern institution above the University of North Carolina, which stands at the apex of your educational system. And as testimony that the rich get richer, the con-

'See How Hard We're Working For German Unity?'



People's Platform

**Sedberry Creating 'Imaginary Issues'**

Editors, The News: J. C. SEDBERRY in a recent speech attacked Rep. Charles Raper Jones on several social issues, referred to Republican deception. "How can you save that which you never had?" he asked. I can say that he, being a Democrat, ought to know. In 20 years of Democratic rule in Washington they spent \$245 billion that they never had. If the Democrats could spend \$245 billion they didn't have (and this isn't deceptive), how could they spend \$17 billion they never had?

Sedberry pledged that he would try and bring about a reduction in federal expenditures here in the coming budget. Sure, we remember another Democrat that campaigned on reducing expenditures and then went on a spending spree that ran 20 years and reduced our national debt from \$18 billion to \$382 billion. Now friends, the Democrats in 20 years made little if any effort to reduce expenditures or balance the budget. Also the Democratic administration right here in North Carolina is right now talking about increasing taxes. The performance, past and present, of the Democrats is any criteria. Mr. Sedberry would be forced to vote against his fellow Democrats in order to balance the budget.

Mr. Sedberry further attacked the Republicans for failure to reduce taxes. Now mind you, I just said he would try to balance the budget and with the next breath he says he is in favor of tax cuts. This my friends is a common talk of out of both sides of your mouth at the same time.

—CHARLES EUREY

**Why Do Candidates Dodge This Issue?**

Editors, The News: I'VE heard the Republicans and the Democrats promise a solution to every other problem. Why not hurricanes? They are big and bad enough. They cost the taxpayers a lot of money. Like wars, they take a toll in lives and property. But not one candidate has promised to clean up the hurricane situation. It is because big money sticks together?

—BOB MCLEOD

Winston Churchill Won't Fade Away

FIFTY-SEVEN years ago, after service in the empire as soldier and correspondent, Winston Churchill wrote that "it is better to be making the news than taking it, to be an actor rather than a critic."

In a report to Commons in 1940 he said that "to die at the height of a man's career, the highest moment of his effort here in this world, universally honored and admired, to the white heat of issues are still commanding the whole of his interest, to be taken from us at a moment when he could already see ultimate success in view—is not the most unenviable of fates."

And when Franklin D. Roosevelt died Churchill paid this tribute to his great friend:

"He died in harness, and we may well say in battle harness, like his soldiers, sailors and airmen who died side by side with ours and carrying out their tasks to the end all over the world. What an enviable death was his."

Winston Churchill wants to die with his boots on, in the service of the British Empire and humanity. He has expressed this wish, more subtly than we put it repeatedly. Thus it is rather surprising that London is confounded by his Cabinet shake-up designed to accommodate Winston Churchill rather than any likely successor to him.

Church is emphasized in the 24 government changes made by Churchill—with of course his personal exception. And it will be surprising indeed if he ever voluntarily retires from command. The

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

HERE is a quick run-down on the how the election is shaping up in the most hotly fought congressional race in 20 years—a race into which Republicans are throwing almost as much money as if the presidency were at stake.

New York—Whoever carries this large electoral state has a leg up in nominating the presidential candidates in 1960. So far it looks like if Sen. Irving Ives, Republican, is slightly ahead in the run for governor. However, contributions began to flow in for Averell Harriman, Democrat, in increased quantities the day Charles Wilson barked his dog remark. In the end he could win.

For the first time in 20 years it looks as if the Democrats would elect a governor. When young George Leash, relatively unknown Democratic chicken farmer was nominated, he was dubbed a throw-away candidate, but Senator Richard Graves is nothing more than expected. Congressman Sam Yorty, Democrat, an early odds-on candidate for governor, has an even bet with GOP Sen. Tom Kuchel, once polls place him slightly ahead.

Iowa—Sen. Gay Gillette, Democrat, will be almost unbeatable despite Iowa's rockribbed Republicanism. This time, young Clyde Herpin, son of the late Democratic senator by that name, is making

America's Sense Of Humor Can Be An Active Weapon

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NEW YORK

WE were talking the other day about changing the concept of behavior expected of those in the seats of authority. I was recommending that some of its strict code of conduct under the Articles of War be relaxed to enable a more cheerful soldier to kid his jailers along and confess to anything and everything if it would help his cause any.

A freedom to sign "confessions" and go on broadcasts, and give "information," if indulged in by all the prisoners, would go a far piece to prevent prisoners in prisoner-of-war encampments, from propaganda. The black sheep, if he lives, and the other is subject to court-martial.

The black sins of the collaborators are not the signing of army admissions of guilt, nor are they participation in propaganda. The black sins are the ones in which the easy-riders gang up with their captors against their own brothers.

**LOATHSOME DOINGS**

I mean the nasty business of indulging in the enemy, and rubbing the bodies of the dead, setting up a black market in foods and luxuries which are entitled to free distribution, setting out deliberately to spy, and similar loathsome doings which past and future POW collaboration trials feature. These are things that, in my opinion, should be punished by lengthy imprisonment or shooting.

In some measure they came into being through the weakness of individuals who could not withstand the kind of pressures the Gen. Deans are capable of reducing by hitting on a psychological bullet. The weaklings, degraded and threatened, take the easy way out. From small private sins it's only a skip to active work for the enemy against their own brothers.

can, but it looks as if he would win. Barkley is one of the most revered figures in Kentucky. His election would take another cut out of the Republican Senate majority.

**Illinois**—If all the Republican money poured into Illinois is unavailing, it should prove larger than that of any other state. The McCarthyites, the Chicago Tribune crowd, and various other Republican tactics would have nothing better to do than to defeat Sen. Paul Douglas, ex-Marine hero Democrat, who has stood up against Eisenhower on economic policies, while supporting him on foreign policies. However, they are going to have a tough time. It looks as if Douglas could win.

**Massachusetts**—As a result of Sen. Jack Kennedy's desertion of ex-Congressman Foster Furcolo, Sen. Livertt Saltonstall is Republican.

**Montana**—Republicans are throwing a lot of money into Montana to try to defeat ex-state senator Jim Murray. However, an unspectacular, but effective Democratic committee if the Democrats control the Senate. Despite this, Murray will win.

**Nevada**—Alvin J. Ransdell, a big money and friend of the late Pat McCarran and a Democrat, will be elected to fill his seat.

**Michigan**—After Sen. Blair Moody died, everyone figured that Sen. Homer Ferguson, Republican, was certain of reelection. However, an unspectacular, but effective Democratic named Pat McNamara has been creeping up on him. When the late Sen. Wilson died, McNamara in Detroit the other day, Ferguson almost won. In hard-to-get work Detroit it could cost Homer the election.

The Case Of The Three Cases

CLIFFORD P. CASE is the Republican senatorial candidate in New Jersey. It was charged recently that his sister had been a member of Communist-front organizations. A former Communist said so. Now it develops that it was another Adelaide Case, now deceased, who belonged to Communist-front organizations. So Clifford Case is "clean." His family tree stands scrutiny. A smear attempt failed.

But that isn't the point that needs to be made. Our point is that, had Case's sister been "guilty" as charged, her associations would be totally irrelevant to his candidacy. Furthermore, he himself once belonged to an organization on the growing list of subversive organizations, that fact in itself would be irrelevant also.

That past membership in organizations now termed subversive is frequently meaningless is attested by the fact that arch conservatives—Sen. Homer Ferguson is one of them—and persons with all hues of political views have been in sub-

Why We Like The South

ONE of the reasons why I like to live in the South. Rather in this particular section of the South.

Lucille wanted to get a hurry-up wedding present to a young Mt. Olive girl. She was told that the girl's china pattern was at Jordan's Jewelry in Mt. Olive. She telephoned this firm. The young woman who answered explained that Mr. Jordan was in Duke for an operation, and that she was a temporary worker and really didn't know much about such things.

Lucille then telephoned Morgan's Jewelry. A cultured, pleasant voice answered. It was Mrs. Mark Barfield, wife of Mt. Olive's efficient postmaster. Lucille explained she was trying to locate the china pattern of the bride-to-be.

"They have it at Jordan's," said Mrs. Barfield, knowing at once. "It is on display right in their window. They do not run any charge except I tell you what I will do. I will go buy what you want and pay for it and you can pay me. May be we haven't met formally but I know

GOP Pours Big Money Into Campaign

Holm, the farmer-Democrat. In other words, South Dakota is a doubtful state.

**Kansas**—Sen. Andy Schoepel, incumbent Republican, told Vice President Nixon when he went through Kansas recently that "if the election was held today, I would vote for the Republican." He made an extra speech, which Nixon did. Despite this, George McGill, the Republican who wrote the first farm price support bill under FDR, is running like a house afire, may upset all the political timetables. Kansas is also a doubtful state.

**Minnesota**—Sen. Hubert Humphrey, Democrat, is considered unbeatable.

**New Mexico**—Ex-Secretary of Agriculture Clinton Anderson, Democrat, is also just about unbeatable.

**West Virginia**—Sen. Matt Neely, Democrat, is unbeatable.

**Ohio**—Congressman George Bender, Republican, is running neck-and-neck with Sen. Tom Burke, Democrat, the longtime and able former mayor of Cleveland. Secretary of the Treasury George Humphrey, the biggest businessman in Ohio, is putting big money and heavy pressure behind Bender.

**New Jersey**—Republican squabbling plus the serious GOP scandals in New Jersey seem certain to defeat Clifford Case, Republican, in the Senate race. Election of Congressman Charles Howell, Democrat, would take one seat away from the Republican majority.

**Kentucky**—The Veep is having a tougher time defeating Sen. John Sherman Cooper than any other former Republi-

From The Goldsboro News-Argus

you by sight and shall be glad to accommodate you."

The bride-to-be got the china on time. The bride-to-be got the china on time. The bride-to-be got the china on time. The bride-to-be got the china on time.

That's why I like to live in the South.

A three-year-old boy cried bitterly as a three-year-old boy bounded up to him, asking his hands and face. "What is it?"

"No," came the reply, "but he tasted me!"—LAMAR (Mo.) DEMOCRAT.

Women are smarter than men, says a judge. But did he ever see a man button his shirt up the back?—FORT MYERS (FLA.) NEWS-PRESS.

First—Are you going to let that red-headed steed you're riding?

Second—Never! I'll die first!—GREENVILLE (TENN.) SUN.