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Ben E. Douglas: A Show Of Strength

THE HEEL Democrats have worn a harried, ruffled air ever since Nov. 4, 1952, when Republican Charles Raper Jonas captured the Tenth District congressional seat. The Tenth was the only GOP spot on the glossy fur rug of Democratic control in North Carolina. All 11 of the state's other congressional districts sent Democrats to Washington in 1952 and again in 1954. But the Tenth remained a Republican pelt—as conspicuous as a cut of royal mink. "It's a matter of pride," one party chieftain explained last week. "The Democrats want a solid state."

Today Democratic hopes were higher than at any time since 1952. There was talk of a "solid" state again. The reason is simple. After weeks of blood-curdling tribal powwows, Democratic chiefs were prepared to reveal Saturday that Ben E. Douglas of Charlotte was ready to challenge Rep. Jonas in November. There was cause for optimism. Mr. Douglas, a man who knows his fur and his politics, is not a second stringer. He is a major figure in North Carolina's Democratic hierarchy. He is a man of demonstrated influence and standing. He will be, in every sense, a strong candidate. For three busy terms, he was mayor of Charlotte. He served with distinction later as director of the State Department of Conservation & Development, resigning late last year to tend home fires. As C&D director, he traveled widely throughout the state, spoke to more than 200,000 people, was prominently mentioned as a gubernatorial candidate. He has the important distinction of being known "up the district" as well as in Mecklenburg.

A Needed Antibiotic For Urban Blight

Brooklyn and other slum areas of Charlotte could be transformed into more valuable, more useful and tremendously more attractive property through an urban redevelopment program.—This News, Dec. 19, 1949.

THE lead paragraph of Tom Fesperman's 1949 feature story is as valid today as on the day it was written. More than six years of civic stretching and straining have not produced an urban redevelopment program for Charlotte. Brooklyn is not the open wound it once was but it remains a blot on the civic conscience.

Under a "slum clearance" program initiated in 1948, thousands of Charlotte dwellings have been brought up to minimum housing standards. Largely due to the vigorous support of the Board of Realtors.

But when large areas such as Brooklyn are concerned, rehabilitation is often not enough. A stronger antibiotic—redevelopment—is needed. The stumbling block today—as it was in 1949—is a lack of workable legislation. Chairman Spencer Bell of the City-Council Planning Commission has again sought the matter of public attention. He has indicated that another attempt will be made to have an appropriate enabling act approved by the City Council and referred to Mecklenburg's legislative delegation for consideration.

The plan is plainly worthy of the community's support. The prospect that 3rd St. will be the site of the new downtown office issue into clear focus once again. The opportunity for a sweeping cleanup of a 24-block blighted area is inviting. Federal funds to help do the job are available. Every effort should be made to master the legislative battle which has plagued Charlotte—and Brooklyn—for so long.

Brighter Side

YOU WOULD never guess it from the doom-shaped gloom currently being dispensed by Washington columnists. Democratic politicians, New York Giants fans and other chronic worriers, but all is not lost.

For instance the CATHOLIC DIGEST brightly observes that there are 162,922,000 Americans who are not members of the Communist Party. Furthermore, some 37,011,400 couples in the United States will not apply for divorce, the Internal Revenue Service will get 43,846,154 correctly filed income tax returns, 154,000,000, 3,290,000 children are really learning something in school and 83 countries in the world do not have the hydrogen bomb. Feel better now?

Reason Must Be Stronger Than Wrath

U. S. Negro leaders promoting emotional nationwide demonstrations to dramatize racial problems in Alabama do a disservice to their own people and to the nation as a whole.

The question of whether segregation is to be maintained on Montgomery's buses is a matter for the courts to decide. It is a legal issue.

But zeal and impatience for legal solutions have spawned dubious crusades for "immediate rights," boycotts, much fiery talk and worst of all, hatred. The arraignment of some 100 Montgomery Negroes on antiboycott indictments was the signal for national Negro leaders to go into action. The strategy: Organize national demonstrations patterned after the late Mahatma Gandhi's passive resistance programs. But by basing their demonstrations on anguished demands for "action," the leaders are contributing nothing but rancor and emotion to a problem that demands all there is of calm, deliberate thought and wisdom.

In a dilemma such as this, reason must be stronger than wrath or sentiment or resentment of the Communist Party. Demonstrations by Negroes across the nation can do nothing but add fuel to the flames of hatred. The magnification of Negro resentment in this way would be conducive perhaps to melodramatic but useless as a way of getting at the core of the problem. The most obvious danger is that of the irreparable division of people now involved in a collective search for reasonable solutions to agonizing problems.

The program of protest is self-defeating. It can only add to contemporary confusions embroiled by race.

From The London Times

TEACHING THE BUDGY BIRD TO TALK

THE secretary of an RSPCA branch has made the suggestion that pet budgerigars learning to talk should first learn their address and name, so that they should happen to possess such a thing, their telephone number. While human infants making their first attempts at the difficulties of speech are content if they can accomplish a lisping "mama" or "papa," and merely to exert their vocal organs finally, "goo," the fledgling budgerigar will be piping up with 194. Featherstonehaugh Gardens, N.S.19, or Grosvenor—giving the first "R" the trill of the professional telephone operator—999. What could at one and the same time be more cute, in the old American slang sense, and more practical?

Leaving aside the serious issues, involved in training animals for the circus and the traveling show, the question of tricks for the domestic kind has always been one on which opinion is divided. There is a school of thought prepared to go into raptures at the sight of a dog sitting up and begging for a lump of sugar or laboriously bringing over on its side on the hearth-rug and "dying for its country"; the opposition holds that such tricks are humiliating and ridiculous, and affront to the dignity of doghood. Certainly the more the trick serves a useful purpose the more natural to the animal it is likely to be, and to learn a method of getting home when lost is useful indeed.

Besides, what might be called the plot value of the budgerigar and his big brother in speech, the parrot, has been sadly neglected. Parrots, it is true, are valuable in providing local colour and as such have been freely used—the cry of "pieces of eight, pieces of eight," is a great help in establishing the atmosphere of TREASURE ISLAND and the piratical proclivities of Long John Silver. In general, however, the parrot has dwelt too long in the shadow of that green baize which, flung over the cage by a blushing member of the female sex to cut short a flow of sea-faring oaths, has been for too long the perennial, the never-ending, the traveling show, the question of tricks for the domestic kind has always been one on which opinion is divided. There is a school of thought prepared to go into raptures at the sight of a dog sitting up and begging for a lump of sugar or laboriously bringing over on its side on the hearth-rug and "dying for its country"; the opposition holds that such tricks are humiliating and ridiculous, and affront to the dignity of doghood. Certainly the more the trick serves a useful purpose the more natural to the animal it is likely to be, and to learn a method of getting home when lost is useful indeed.

People's Platform

Charlotte Editors, The News: WHAT is a liberal? For most people the word has vaguely favorable connotation, evoking the ideas of freedom, tolerance and progress.

In religion, liberalism indicates a departure from tradition and authority. As a social or political philosophy, however, it tends to elude precise definition. TWO VIEWS: "The crying need of modern liberalism," says one author, "is for a clearer perception of principle, a great tradition, the oldest and richest in political history— is all but lost in a fog of words, worn and empty phrases. Particularly in America, the term 'liberal' is used to cover policies ranging from 19th century laissez faire to dictatorial collectivism."

An eminent British liberal once described liberalism as a belief in the value of human personality and a conviction that the social order of progress lies in the free exercise of individual energy. He tempered his idealism with the practical observation that it (liberalism) involves "a readiness to use the powers of the State for the purposes of creating the conditions within which individual energy can thrive."

Today the differences between liberal and conservative philosophy like the differences between the two political parties' platforms, are becoming less and less obvious. Out of doubt is the fact that the basic ideological distinction between the two faiths lies in the acceptance by one, and the rejection by the other, of big government.

MORE GOVERNMENT: The situation favors in fact demand, the enlarged role of government. The transformation of the American economy, from one based on the Jeffersonian ideal of independent farmers with just enough land to support their families, among them, to a mass production industrial system, with its booms and recessions, has brought liberals and conservatives closer together. Outcries against "bureaucracy" are almost comically at odds with the seriousness of our problems, both here and abroad, in this year of 1956.

—THOMAS H. TAYLOR

Organize Citizens To Stop Slaughter

Charlotte Editors, The News: I'm glad to see a recent letter. "After Midnight—Are Caution Light Enough?" I agree with Mr. Earl G. Raborn, but to get results and put a stop to the reckless and lawless drunk driving, we as citizens will have to go further than keeping traffic lights on after midnight.

For instance, how many people would drive drunk, speed or drive recklessly if they knew beyond any doubt that if they were caught it would mean a little "vacation behind bars." What is a fine to such empty-headed individuals as drunks, speeders, etc.? The punishment fitting the crime we would see more of these people if they could do something constructive road work (the pick and shovel kind) rather than destructive work we read so much about in the papers.

Any offenders caught, regardless of race, creed, color, sex or religious persuasion, if they might be, shouldn't be allowed to pay fines, have sentences suspended or have time off for good behavior. There are ways to stop these awful accidents if the citizens of North Carolina really want to get behind our lawmakers, police departments, etc. Just recently I called the County Police Dept. to see if they could do something about speeding in our community. The officer in charge was real nice but he had no time in telling me that they have had to deal with other duties so that they had very little time to catch speeders. I see the same condition existed all over the county. If people want to drink, that's their privilege; but for the safety of John Q. Public let's do what we can as citizens to keep them off public highways. I never get in my car but what

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON IT IS NOT always a happy job for a newspaperman to publish facts which may not be palatable to a large body of people in the United States. This may be seen in the case of Drew Pearson, who, along with others, was guilty of not reporting the state of President Roosevelt's health when he ran again in 1944.

Censorship There was, of course, a wartime censorship of the kind that has troubled the President. It is unpleasant and disagreeable to warn publicity that a man may die in office.

Yet when the office of president is all-important to the well-being of the United States, it is not surprising that such unpleasant facts have to be faced and I resolved after the omission of the press in 1944 that I would be ready again. Why I reported as early as Aug. 4, 1953, that President Eisenhower had a heart condition and had to take very good care

What is A Liberal? Definitions Are Dissolving



"He's trying to invent a clock which makes time stand still... Figures he's got a ready market with the reactionaries in the world..."

I pray for God to grant me His mercy and protection. Believe me you really need prayer before you ride on the highways where speeders, drunks, etc., are allowed to run loose like stampeding cattle. Let's as citizens organize a delegation of interested people to do all the rules of constitutional construction in order to strike down segregation in the schools of the country, the South almost exclusively, as the South is the home of most of our Negro population.

AMALGAMATION: I am not concerned as to whether I am designated an extremist or not. I have never refused to follow school and state integration of classifications. At 72 I have no disposition to change. I am definitely convinced that education is not the purpose of integration in the schools from the kindergarten up, but the integration of the races.

AMALGAMATION has always followed the removal of racial barriers. Where there was practical value in a mixture of the races, the population of the countries to the South of us where we have a fusion of white Spaniards, Indians and Negroes. No greater misfortune could happen to the white and Negro races.

DEEDS ABOVE WORDS: Furthermore, I do not believe we could make a school system work if we were to take the people who hate it with a tinker's damn. Those who have money and can do it will leave these hybrid schools and send their children to swank private schools, leaving the class the average man belongs to to take care of.

HYBRID SYSTEM: I may have to support a hybrid school system, but I would be much less rebellious if Gov. Hodges would call a special session of the General Assembly and let it submit to the people the issue of segregated schools or no financial support from the state for integrated schools. It is crucial that we express our views on the subject to our representatives.

FURTHER DELAY: I have a study commission, but it is so advised in advance that he will be deserted in the show-down. Furthermore, the Federal Commission on the South. With them it is good God and good Devil; necessarily so, as they do not know who will be on top, the State of Education or the NAACP.

Anxious Pushers: It is quite clear from President Eisenhower's report on his trip to Cuba that he has been frequently asked the erosion on the health of the president, has urged the public leaders to build up other men, and no later than the other day on the golf course expressed fear about his physical condition. It is also quite clear that, as with Roosevelt, the men around Eisenhower are pushing him, almost goading him to

preserve the public school, as if it could be worth preserving, and at the same time refuse to let the people speak for themselves. —JOHN W. HESTER

The White Race Is The Aggressor

Charlotte Editors, The News: ALL MY life have been a bit confused and puzzled about the race situation.

Perhaps some of the platform readers can enlighten me. I am not referring to integration. My mother was born in 1885. Her skin was fair and her eyes were blue. As a child, I could not understand why my mother's skin was white and her veins showed blue under her skin while I was brown with brown eyes.

Since the Supreme Court's decision, the cry of the whites in the deep South has been "mongrelization" and "amalgamation." Why? The Negro is only seeking equality of opportunity and first class citizenship in which he is entitled as an American citizen. The Negro has not mongrelized the white race. In his (white man's) travel, throughout the world, if he tarried long enough some race was mongrelized. The white man is the aggressor. —MRS. MARVIN J. GAY

Most Negroes Want Segregation Continued

Laurinburg Editors, The News: OF THE many letters I have been reading on the editorial page of your paper I have yet read one that hardly touched on the truth about segregation.

First of all, I would say that the majority of the Negroes are in favor of segregation. They are not being represented by the NAACP, instead, they are being grossly misrepresented by that organization. And if we will only take a little time and help the few poor innocent Negroes who have been taken by the NAACP to learn the truth about the organization, we will be a great help to him (the Negro).

DEFINITION: First, the definition of NAACP should read something like this: "Not Attached to Any Colored People." That would be much nearer the truth, because the sponsors and backers and originators of the organization are not Negroes at all, according to very reliable reports. I will never understand why or how such a derogation as the NAACP has ever escaped an investigation —

peace on earth and good will to men, and makes us all feel very sick deep down to think that after all the respect that the country has had for the Supreme Court throughout the entire life of it, believing that it was non-political, and above reproach, it would allow itself to be used to save the United States from such a court.

My hope and prayer is that the Supreme Court will regain its respect. And now to the objective: Peace on earth and good will to men, and makes us all feel very sick deep down to think that after all the respect that the country has had for the Supreme Court throughout the entire life of it, believing that it was non-political, and above reproach, it would allow itself to be used to save the United States from such a court.

Supreme Court Claims False

Gaffney, S. C. Editors, The News: TN Feb. 17th issue, Carl Van Ravenscroft states that the Supreme Court acted within its authority when it found segregation but equal doctrine unconstitutional. The Supreme court claimed it found that the separation of the Negro and white races in public schools was unconstitutional, and it is well known that the court claims that the separation of the Negro and the white in all other functions is unconstitutional.

But their claims are false, for the Supreme Court of nine members, or any other court of four judges or whatever, does not have the authority to take the individual rights of the citizens of what is called a free country and attempt to dictate to the people of the world. If there were only enough people with the understanding of Gov. Marvin Griffin of Georgia, the Negro and the white in all other functions is unconstitutional. —JOHN S. DICKSON

Quote, Unquote

The world is full of willing people; some willing to work, the rest willing to let them.—Robert Frost.

Some Doctors Disagree With Dr. White

run—for the same reason the men around Roosevelt pushed him up onto the sacrificial election block—namely, so they can remain in office. This column is not written to influence President Eisenhower, but rather to warn those who are goading him and to inform the American public who has not entirely realized what is happening. The public does not, for instance, realize that many doctors, Republican doctors, have been against Dr. Paul D. White should make a report to the nation so obviously contrary to known medical knowledge and to his own previous statements.

Yet the presidency is a position which must normally absorb constant strains and nervous decisions. One doctor, publicist disagreed with Dr. White's medical report, assuring the public that Ike had "five to ten more years" of active life. Dr. Samuel Levine, the New Haven specialist, who no later than one day after Dr. White's report told 25,000 doctors on a closed television circuit that "nobody can accurately predict the span of an individual's heart patient."

Future Of The Nation: I repeat that the health of a man in high office is not pleasant to discuss. But the health of our country is more important than a matter of unpleasantness. If Gen. Eisenhower decides to run then I shall hope and pray that he will be spared a long life and that he shall finish out his term. If he decides not to run, then I hope he will use his talents in the international field, perhaps as head of the United Nations.