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THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 1938

## Uses of Election Years

A Washington business lip-sheet doubts that income tax exemptions will be lowered at the next session of Congress. Reason advanced is that millions of people would have to go through the torture of making out returns for the first time and sending a check to the Collector of Internal Revenue — not in 1939 but in the Spring of 1940, which is an election year. That would be bad politics.

By the same token, it would be bad politics for the administration to champion lower income tax exemptions in 1940. True, the first effects wouldn't be felt until the year after, but the opposition could be counted on to let the novice taxpayers know what they had been let in for.

It looks as though heads of families who make less than \$2,500 a year and single individuals who make less than \$1,000 are safe for another year. In fact, if they could just manage — and they are a numerous class — to hold national elections every year, income tax exemptions might stay where they are. Otherwise they are bound to come down.

## Fair-Haired Greenwood

Greenwood County, S. C., must count that day lost whose low descending sun brings no additional benefit from the New Deal in Washington. Greenwood falls in the west-central, predominantly rural part of the state. Its population is 39,076, or was at the time of the 1930 census. Doubtless, if there is anything to publicity, it has grown considerably in the meantime and the place must be running over with jobholders.

It would be interesting to add up all the loans and outright gifts Greenwood County has received from the Federal Government since the Federal Government. The sum would be off to a whopping total of \$2,850,000 (\$450,000 gift, \$2,400,000 loans) with the single entry of Secretary Tolson's

# Uprightness or Corruption?

There is something reassuring in the number and variety of persons who made affidavits that Pine Harbor, boating, dining and dancing place on the Catawba, was a public nuisance. That it is or isn't a public nuisance, the court will determine when the temporary radlocking order issued by Judge Hill yesterday comes up before Judge Harding for adjudication. Meanwhile, "a disgrace to Mecklenburg County . . . a rendezvous of vice, assignation, drunkenness, lewd and indecent and immoral conduct." It has been sworn to be by — (1) a County Commissioner; (2) a Grand Juror; (3) two Deputy Sheriffs; and (4) a Rural Policeman.

In these five persons are represented the County's governing authority, the citizenry (through the Grand Juror), and two police agencies. And we tell you, meemies, that it is time for all upright people, both in private and public capacities, to come up before Judge Harding in the name of government in this city and county and in making the law master over the worst elements in the community, instead of the reverse. We tell you that conditions which

exist lead inexorably to a showdown between uprightness and corruption — the corruption which gets money, an equivalent of power, largely from the two categories of liquor and the numbers game, both wholly illegal. We tell you that the power of the proprietors of this corruption is such that they can influence the courts, pushing their favorites in office in the expectation of repayment in the form of protection and political favors.

We tell you that the outward manifestation of this corruption, illustrating the daily battles in "egg lottery and prostitution, is far less of an evil force than the secret concentration of too much power in the wrong hands. Pine Harbor is only an outcropping, and the possible radlocking of Pine Harbor will not for a moment break the grip of the corrupt or interrupt the flow of money into their hands. What will unsettle them, however, is the same force that brought Pine Harbor into court, and into the courtroom is the dominant upright force in the community, both official and private, in the determination to restore corruption to the bar and restore the authority of the law.

# UNADMIRABLE BUT LAWFUL

By Hugh S. Johnson

BETHANY BEACH, Del. — The press this week carried a story that I am to be called before the Dies Committee investigating "un-American" activities to tell what evidence of Communism developed while I was organizing WPA in New York City. I hope they won't, because I couldn't tell them anything of value.

Of course, there were Communists on WPA relief. But what is the matter with that? There is a Communist Party in this country. It is no crime to belong in it. It openly proposes candidates for office and an insignificant number of citizens vote for them. Many sincere people believe in the principles of Communism. If the time ever comes in this country when a man can be persecuted or even discriminated against for his political beliefs, something will have happened to the very base of constitutional government.

As long as the program of any group is to try to change the laws or the Constitution of the United States by argument and the creation of a majority opinion, that is the very essence of our institutions. I don't know on what count any people in any such group should be restricted in that right.

## LET THE REAL COMMUNIST BE AWARE!

Of course, there is a field beyond that — a field in which the aim is to combine with swift, forceful, murderous strokes to overthrow government by violence — to install governors, not by majority vote, but by superior force in minority hands. There is a right of revolution if the people so desire. It is the right which the people who assert it must justify if and if he fails in his effort to assert force, he may swing for it as a traitor.

There is no doubt that the Communist strategy is to "bore from within." It is to ally itself with every liberal movement, not asserting its real aims but using the sincere purposes of reformers to stir up continuing discontent and class warfare in the hope of creating a chaos in which some Communist man-on-horseback can become head of the state and inaugurate rule by violence which majority rule had by democratic process of majority rule.

## CRIMES AGAINST THE COMMON LAW, NOT AGAINST DEMOCRACY

I started an "Intelligence" section in New York WPA — not to discover Communists, which was easy — but to warn me of any graft, sabotage, or inclination to violence. It was plain, but not probable, that the so-called Communist "cells" in many projects and constant attempts to keep relief workers discontented and hostile. But there were no overt acts against Federal authority that came to my attention. I insisted that nobody be punished because he was a Communist and that the Government's only purpose was to preserve the public interest. There were no discharges or other disciplinary measures.

I believe in some of these so-called "cells" in the New York City WPA, where they were people who had received a four deal from life and were resentful. Generally also, they were highly intelligent and sincere in what I thought were most mistaken beliefs. I saw none whom I could regard with anything but sympathy and regret.

# Letters To The Editor

## The President Defended For His "Purges"

Records Undoubtedly Are Records; What's Wrong With Pointing To Them?

Dear Sir:

I cannot quite understand why so much abuse is being heaped upon President Roosevelt for his so-called "purges" of anti-New Deal Congressmen.

Why cannot the President or anyone else, for that matter, ask the electorate to elect a certain candidate? When all is said and done, even the President can do no more than express his wishes. He has not the slightest power of enforcing his requests upon unwilling citizens.

Take, for instance, Mr. Roosevelt's recent speech in Georgia against Senator George. The President did not criticize the Senator personally; he did not lower his ability; nor did he question his honesty or integrity. On the contrary, he praised the Georgian as a "gentleman and a scholar." Roosevelt simply pointed to the Senator's record, not in a scornful or ridiculous manner, but only as to how it stacked up when compared with New Deal principles. What could be wrong with that?

Roosevelt's "hit" to Georgia simply meant that the issue in the forthcoming primary has been more fully drawn as a battle between the New Dealers and the anti-New Dealers. If George is elected, it will indicate, among other things, that the electorate of Georgia is not in unqualified sympathy with the President's program. If he is defeated, it will tend to show that Georgia is backing Roosevelt and the New Deal.

Despite anything the President can do, or might want to do, when all is said and done the election still rests where it belongs — squarely in the hands of the sovereign voters of the state of Georgia.

HUGH WAITE.  
Rock Hill.

## Our Rights On Value Left With The Times

Dear Sir:

[Note: The County Commissioners has turned down the auditorium project, to which this letter addressed. But the County still had the old Courthouse site, in which the letter also addressed — Editor, The News.]

Senator Hill says that the County has no business erecting an auditorium-convention hall on the old Courthouse lot, at Tyson and Third Streets. The Senator says the County is morally obligated to sell the land to help relieve the housing shortage.

Well, the Senator may be right. And it is no doubt that this business of leasing bonds every time you turn around has got in stop. But as far as selling the lot is concerned, that's another question.

If anybody approached the County Commissioners tomorrow with an offer to buy land, unless his bid was very high, which I don't likely considering the times, he would be better off when a better offer could be made. Very good.

New suppose good times did come very suddenly. Business was flourishing and we were really out of the recession. The real estate market was good, and again someone came forward with an offer to buy the property. Would it be sold? I think not, for unless a tremendous price was offered the same thing would happen. "We are waiting for a better offer." It's happened before and will happen again.

Now suppose you ever want anything on that lot except a filling station, or parking lot, they could do worse than listen to Colonel Kirkpatrick.

C. W. EMBERY.  
Charlotte.

# BELIEVE IT OR NOT By Ripley

On request, sent with stamped, addressed envelope, Mr Ripley will furnish proof of anything depicted by him.



# "Interference And Dictation"

By HERBERT AGAR

THE newspapers of New York and New England are hysterical on the subject of the "purge." It seems to them that "the American way" will come to an end if the voters of Georgia elect Senator George. The Sixteenth Congressional District of New York City should put somebody in Congress who actually represents their views.

Everybody knows that a majority of citizens in those two states, and in that Congressional district, are in favor of the New Deal. Why, then, is it a betrayal of all things sacred to call the attention of those voters to the fact that their present representatives are not in favor of the New Deal?

Why should the President, who is responsible for the success or failure of the New Deal, be forbidden to call the attention of the citizens to plain and important facts? When he does call attention to plain facts, why should this be named an act of dictatorialism?

## THE PEOPLE STILL CALL THIS HALLOW

He has no power to tell us what to do, or how to vote. But because he is President we will listen to what he says; therefore, he has the power to direct our attention to facts we might otherwise overlook.

It is a fact that George and Tydings and O'Connor have been major enemies of the New Deal during the past two years. All three men are denying it, because all three men want the votes of New Dealers. But none of them deserves the votes of New Dealers.

They drew all the votes of all the anti-New Deal Democrats who are registered in their states or districts. And they deserve nothing else. The President is trying to do it that they get nothing else. By doing this he is contributing to the honesty and the effectiveness of our democratic system.

Nothing but ignorance or inattention can explain the pretense that what the President is doing is despicable.

## THE EDITORIAL BANQUET GOES THROUGH

The New York Herald Tribune is an example of the honesty in its most extreme form. The issue raised by the "purge," according to The Herald Tribune, "involves the very substance of the American system of government — the rights of the people of a district or a state to choose their own representatives in Congress without outside interference, advice or dictation."

# Earlier Days

News of 75 and 100 Years Ago From Files in the State Library at Raleigh

## AUGUST 25, 1863 75 YEARS AGO

**ENEMY ADVANCED ON RICHMOND**  
Richmond — Intelligence was received here last evening that the Yankees were advancing from the Peninsula. The courier from New Kent C. H. gives their force at about 3,000, mostly if not entirely of cavalry. It was believed there that other forces were close by, and that the moment had been planned with some important object in view. The passengers who came up last evening by the railroad confirm this intelligence in its main points.

An officer who arrived here last night and who was at the White House as late as one o'clock yesterday, says that about dusk last evening the Yankees in large force came up to Bottom's Bridge. Their forces consisted of cavalry, artillery and infantry, while our forces numbered 100 — a mere guard for the bridge. Despite these fearful odds our men fought as long as they could, but were soon driven back by the fire of the enemy's artillery.

## AUGUST 27, 1838 100 YEARS AGO

**NOTE FOR COOPER**  
Mr. J. Fenimore Cooper, it is said, is engaged in preparing for the President the Naval History of the United States. We advise him to procure lists of all the present officers of the Navy who take precedence as "our boys" and "our fellows" — a well as all those who rank as "swabs," "kicks," "coppers" and "inkers" — and activities generally in mean-ness and villainy.

## With Hitler Around?

(Atlanta Constitution)  
Students of conditions in the stratosphere foresee planes traveling fifteen miles above the sea. A man, who was created a little lower than the angels, is creeping up.

# 90 PER CENT and No Takers

Nearly everybody we have talked to has expressed disappointment that Colonel Kirkpatrick couldn't persuade the County Commissioners to see the auditorium project his way. The general feeling is that this must be the last time around for all the easy money to be had from PWA and affiliates; that the people of this city are going to have to pay back their share no matter how much or how little they get of it; and that business locally needs all the immediate stimulus it can get, even if local governments have to put out something of their own in the bargain. They're paying for relief, anyhow.

Bargain — ah, yes! Let's lay aside the auditorium, which would have represented only about a 25 per cent of Federal stimulus expense. Let's get a kind dear to the New Deal, which impels the Federal Government to be not only generous but positively magnanimous. If its bargaining were looking for the chance of the lot is to be found on the Federal Housing Administration's counter.

A full 90 per cent of the first cost of slum-clearance housing is borne by the Federal Government. Thus, under a contract, the City expects to have to put up, along with privately-contributed money, to obtain a \$450,000 grant for a million-dollar hospital, it could get a \$3,000,000 slum clearance project at least to look into any proposition offering 90 PER CENT in ex-

# 90 PER CENT and No Takers

ject going. We are suggesting no such figure, but illustrating, rather, how much more favorable are the terms of FHA grants (90 PER CENT) than PWA grants.

Other cities are not blind to this. Carolina alone the following sums for slum clearance have been earmarked or already allocated:

Wilmington	\$ 900,000
Raleigh	1,000,000
Charlotte	2,000,000
Columbia	1,500,000
Spartanburg	800,000

According to the relative sizes of these towns and their allotments, Charlotte should have underway at least \$2,500,000 in low-cost housing, 90 PER CENT of which would be at Federal Government expense. Whether the money should be spent on one huge development or on several smaller and separate undertakings is a detail. The pressing point is that Charlotte is about to be left in the cold.

It isn't like us, and we don't begin to understand it. It's up to the City Council, of course, to take the initiative — not necessarily to put in for an FHA project, but to appoint a committee, made up of representatives of private citizens, to examine the possibilities while they exist. That in itself will cost nothing, as there is no obligation to buy. But there is, we are positive, a heavy obligation upon the Council's change for 10.

# Visiting Around

Paxine Jack Spratt  
(Hendersonville Times-News)

LADY DESIRES A COMFORTABLE room and board with some one willing to conform a little to diet. Reply in writing "100." Times-News.

And Next, We Belch, on a Cat on the Porch  
(Pine Level Item, Smithfield Herald)

J. C. Patten joined his family at Carolina Beach for the week end.

They'll All Do It  
(Mrs. F. J. Jones, Moore County News)

Tuesday morning as nearby residents awoke about the first thing most of them noticed was a wrecked 1928 VA Ford in the bottom of this highway below White Hill Church. . . . Three party brandy bottles were noticed lying nearby and some of the White Hill folks are still searching that willow thicket.

Such as Not Starting a Conversation  
(HOC Item, Waxhaw Enterprise)

# Peculiarities Of People

By F. Romer

REV. PATRICK BRONTE  
FATHER of Charlotte  
Bronte, famous for her novels, the Rev. Mr. Bronte was one of the strangest of men. He always carried a pistol, fully loaded. When his temper was aroused, a common occurrence, he'd fire off the pistol.

