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THOMAS L. ROBINSON ..... Publisher
J. R. DOWD ..... General Manager
B. S. GRIFFITH ..... Managing Editor
C. A. McKNIGHT ..... Editor

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PLAYGROUNDS AND POLITICS

ACCORDING to recent reports in the papers, some members of the City Council may attempt to withhold bond money for the second phase of the Park & Recreation Commission's citywide program because of the dispute over a community building and play area in Latta Park.

The Latta Park undertaking was originally included in the list of projects given wide publicity before the million dollar bond election last year. It aroused no protests then. Recently the Commission authorized an architect to begin work on the plans, and protests began pouring in from residents of the area.

Several public sessions were held by the Commission at which the project was argued by proponents and opponents. Some of the opposition reached the ears of the Council. Now that the Commission has asked for the release of the balance of the bond money, a portion of which will go to the Latta Park project, it is reported that the Council may step into the controversy.

We believe that would be a mistake.

In the first place, the full program was authorized by the voters. This is not legally binding, of course, either on the Commission or on the Council, but there is a strong moral commitment to carry the program out exactly as promised.

In the second place, recreation is a specialized field, becoming more so each year. The park and playground program was outlined originally by experts, and it will be managed by experts. It is a little out of character for the City Council to set itself up as a superior authority in this field, even though it may have the legal right to do so.

In the third place, it would shatter such stability as the Commission form of government has. If the Council is going to make it a policy to interfere with the management of Park & Recreation Commission funds, it might as well ask the General Assembly to abolish the Commission and put parks and playgrounds under a regular city department. Such a move might have certain benefits, but it is dubious whether they would outweigh the benefits accruing from the unselfish, unsalaried and non-political service of public-spirited residents of the community. Furthermore, it would put recreation smack into politics.

We believe the wiser course is to permit the Commission to work out its own problems in the best way it can.

'REVOLT' OF THE MINERS

IT IS always a risky business to try to fathom the Machiavellian machinations of John L. Lewis, boss of the United Mine Workers. But there's more than meets the eye in the "revolt" of some 45,000 soft coal miners against Mr. Lewis' order that they end their strike and return to the three-day week.

"No work, no contract," the miners say, adding that they're tired of just working three days a week and want to work either the five days or not at all.

The miners have shown quite openly their dissatisfaction with the skimpy wages they have been permitted to earn during 1949. In any other union, the members would probably have rebelled long ago.

But the most salient characteristic of the UMW is the strict adherence to the edicts of Mr. Lewis, regardless of the hardships and obedience to high cause. And we are not ready to believe that the miners have discovered some new brand of independence.

Could it be that this is an indirect maneuver, planned by Mr. Lewis himself, to have the Taft-Hartley Act's emergency provisions invoked, thereby rescuing him from a predicament of his own making?

Mr. Lewis has denounced the Taft-Hartley Act many times. He is on record repeatedly as demanding its repeal. And he has engineered the three-day work week to produce just enough coal so that no severe emergency might occur during his negotiations with the producers.

But those negotiations have not borne fruit, and show no promise of doing so. Mr. Lewis is in a bad spot. His miners are dissatisfied with the three-day work week, and can not be held to that schedule indefinitely. Yet Mr. Lewis could hardly call for a complete cessation of production, since he would be, in effect, asking President Truman to invoke the Taft-Hartley emergency provision.

But what if a "rebellion" should develop in the ranks of UMW and should be permitted to spread just far enough to force President Truman to act? The miners could then go back on a five-day work week. Mr. Lewis would be taken off the spot, and he could still denounce the forcible use of this hated "slave labor law."

Perhaps we give Mr. Lewis credit for too much artfulness. But such a scheme is not beyond his capacity for wily plotting.

GENERAL 'HAP' ARNOLD

FOUR years ago Henry H. (Hap) Arnold, commanding general, Army Air Forces, decided to retire to California to "sit under an oak tree and look at white-faced cows." This idyllic plan was fitting for a man who, like many another American, had just finished a war.

"Hap" Arnold sat under his trees and watched his white-faced cows and then quietly died on Sunday.

But it was not only Gen. Arnold's great service in the war against Germany and Japan that made his death of national notice; for, in the words of Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson, it was Arnold who was "more than anyone else, responsible for building the great American Air Force."

When Arnold died the battle over the importance of the Air Force was still raging—and Arnold, through magazine articles and books, was, weak heart notwithstanding, in the thick of it.

He knew the value of the airplane, knew it in 1911 when as a young lieutenant he was photographed standing beside one of the Army's first flying machines.

Throughout this century, a century which, save for the atomic bomb, would have been the century of flight, Arnold stayed with the winged armada that was so important for this nation between 1941 and 1945, a time when our national life was at stake.

"Hap" Arnold was one of the men who helped to save that life, to bring us to our current strength in the air and thus safe from the military aggression of any other nation.

A NEIGHBORLY WELCOME

ORDINARILY we don't meddle in South Carolina political affairs, under the theory that our friends to the South are very capable of managing their own political destinies. But they'll permit us, we're sure, a neighborly welcome to the gubernatorial candidacy of Jimmy Byrnes.

Mr. Byrnes is a South Carolinian, but he belongs to us all, in a way, by virtue of his long and distinguished service to the nation in many high posts.

He said back in October that he was considering running for governor. His announcement last week-end confirmed persistent reports to that effect, and bore out the unidentified Marlboro County man quoted in the *Charleston News & Observer* as saying "I never saw a man father up if he wasn't gonna shave."

So Southerner is better known to the people of his state or more closely mirrors their collective attitude toward government and politics. Although such vote-getters as Thomas Pope of Newberry, speaker of the House of Representatives, and City Councilman Lester L. Bates of Columbia have already tossed their hats in, it does not appear from this vantage point that Mr. Byrnes will have much trouble.

Mr. Byrnes is an effective critic of the Fair Deal, and a strong believer in state rights. If he is elected, it will be interesting to see how he goes about discharging the state responsibilities which are inseparably bound to state rights.

From The Asheville Citizen

A BRIGHTER SCHOOL PICTURE

PUBLIC schools in most states made substantial gains in the last twelve months, according to a *New York Times* survey of "the status of public school education in the United States." North Carolina, perhaps to the surprise of some, was well up in the ranks of the leaders.

In nearly all of the states there were more teachers for the 1949-50 school year with higher salaries and better qualifications. Most states spent more money on their schools. Here, on a comparative basis, are North Carolina's distinctions:

A greater numerical increase in teachers than any state save California: between 1948-49 and 1949-50 we added about 4,500 teachers.

Fewer substandard or emergency teachers than any state of comparable size except Iowa: one year ago North Carolina had 899 of these teachers; today it has 300.

A greater relative increase in salary than any of the states save North Dakota and Delaware: from an average of $2,100 to $2,500.

A larger school appropriation than all but twelve states: last year thirteen states were ahead of us.

Of course, when all of this is said North Carolina's showing still leaves much room for improvement. The average teacher salary of $2,500 is below the national average ($2,886) and it is only the third highest in the South.

However, the outlook on the basis of these figures is far more hopeful than a year ago.

Like Father, Like Son

Max Gardner Jr. In Limelight

By KATE GARY SHELBY

IF OLIVER MAX GARDNER JR. exercises as much influence on North Carolina politics in the second half of the 20th Century as his father did in the first half, the announcement last week as candidate for the State Senate may well be The Hoeffel's most important political development in 1950.

His intimates insist that it is not wild speculation. While the 27-year-old law student who will get his degree from the University of North Carolina next week is certainly a chip off the old block, he possesses a broader training and a finer temperament for politics than his father ever had. Many are of the opinion that barring unforeseen developments he is the brightest star rising on the state's political horizon.

Young Max, seasoned beyond his years, an earnest and deep-thinking liberal, has lived his entire life in the atmosphere of politics and statesmanship. He has had a seeking for first-hand information since he was old enough to know that he was heir to the assets and liabilities of being the son of a famous father are. But he will not be bitter. Young Max has never been bitten by the political bug. He has a passionate ambition for success on his own merits and achievement and so far has never met anything too big to handle.

Two Strikes Against Him

HE WAS born, of course, with a silver spoon in his mouth. He expects that to be "Strike One". He is a member of a family and native of a city which has dominated North Carolina politics to a degree for more than a score of years. That would be "Strike Two". But before anyone winds up with a fat, fast one designed to send him back to the bench, he'll have to reckon with a rather startling record young Gardner has compiled on his own with a personality not in the least coloured by family animosity.

That's one of young Max's greatest assets. He isn't looking, he insists, for an easy road. Asked if he thought his family connection would give him an extreme advantage regardless of whether he welcomed it, he replied:

"I think about that a lot and I don't know. It could work both ways but more than anything else I would like to feel that I had made it on my own. I feel they owe me anything because my dad was the man he was or because Judge Jim Webb was my grandfather or that anybody else I want to make my own name, my own way, my own career of service."

He continued, "From that I want no one to think that I pretend to be the man my father was. He was one of the best. My announcement for the State Senate does not mean that I entertain ideas of somehow reaching the heights achieved by my father. I will go as far as I can or rather, as far as my abilities and service will take me—as far as the people will send me and will do only those things which in all sincerity I believe I can do well."

That characteristic or theme was evident in his announcement for the Senate race. He simply declared himself a candidate. He did not vow to vet Raleigh on fire or issue lengthy campaign promises. He simply said, "I am a candidate who will seek to do my best for my county, district and state."

The Inevitable Comparison

REGARDLESS of his wishes he'll never get away from a comparison with Max Sr., who became Governor, Undersecretary of the Treasury, a close advisor of Presidents and finally Ambassador to the Court of St. James, a post from which death took him on the eve of his departure for London.

Actually, right now Max Jr. has chalked off even greater ambitions than his father. Governor had at his age. His education was interrupted for three years when he enlisted in the Army as a private to later become a first lieutenant in command of an occupation company in Japan. But he resumed his graduate from N. C. State with honors in Textile Management. During his years in service he married Miss Sara Hoyle Hall of Shelby and they now have two children.

At State he was president of Phi Eta Sigma, honorary freshman society, in his first year. In rapid succession then he became president of his sophomore class, president of the student body and was elected to the Golden Chain, highest honorary order on the campus, and Blue Key. He was a member of the ROTC unit, of an honorary textile fraternity, a staffer on the textile school's magazine and college annual and managed varsity track and football teams. Indeed, he was as popular on the campus and in the dormitory as in the classroom.

Not only has he made an excellent record as a student but he has accomplished that feat while serving dozens of other interests of a more mature nature.

At the age of 24 he became a trustee of the Greater University of North Carolina while still a student. He was quick in demonstrating that his appointment had been no mistake. He authored a resolution through student channels that made funds available at three per cent simple interest instead of five per cent. It was over his strenuous objection that tuitions were raised to $150. Governor Cherry appointed him to the visiting committee of State College. Governor Scott put him on the building committee for the University and finally to the committee for nominating a successor to Dr. Frank Graham.

Other institutions claim his attention as well. He is a trustee and treasurer of Gardner-Webb College and has served as chairman of its planning, cost and construction committee. He is a member of N. C. State's executive committee of the General Alumni Association. He also serves as trustee of Meredith College of which his wife is an alumna.

Photo by James Mills

O. MAX GARDNER JR.

Other Activities

ASIDE from these educational interests he conducts his own private business which consists mainly of a small but modern dairy farm here—Cleco Farms. It is only 50 acres but breeds purebred Guerneys and produces Golden Guernsey milk. He also owns half-interest in Sunnyer Farms here.

At various times since 1946 he has been interested financially in a local wholesale company, a drug store and a cabinet and furniture shop. He is also president of the Cleveland Realty Company and vice-president of the Gardner Land Company.

But then, a great deal of his time is devoted to civic responsibilities. These include directorships in the James E. Shepard Memorial Foundation at Durham; the Health Publications Institute, Raleigh; the Shelby and Cleveland County Foundation; Gardner Foundation and Cleveland Country Club, all of Shelby. He is also treasurer of the Gardner Foundation and director of N. C. State's Agricultural Foundation.

Aside from these he is a Mason, Legionnaire, a member of the VFW, and, before entering law school, a Jaycee and Rotarian. Fraternal interests include the Kappa Alpha social fraternity and a legal and textile fraternity.

At Chapel Hill Max has become a member of the editorial board of the North Carolina Law Review, of the school's legislative council, chairman of the speakers' committee and president of the 500-member Young Democrats Club at the University.

It appears that he has overlooked no phase of preparation for a life in politics, law or textiles. His background is thus crammed with civic interests, experience in all branches of education, in agriculture and even religion. He took another lesson from his father there. Religion has occupied an important place in his living. A born Baptist he has always been active in church affairs and is a welcome Sunday School teacher.

He is following his father's formula, certainly, but his made no reference to politics when, in filling out a law school form concerning his chosen career, he wrote: "In blending the legal profession with a background in textiles, I hope to practice law in Shelby with an idea of service to the widespread textile industry, embracing management and labor in our regions of the state."

Quote, Unquote

Australian: "You Americans take an impossible thing and glamorize it." Pat Campbell, we take your January's bills and call them Santa Claus. —Dallas (Tex.) Morning News.

About the only thing we need more than a rain is a good clean old-fashioned knock down and drag out gas war where a couple of gasoline companies butt heads and force gasoline to a figure which it should be sold at all the time. —Omega (Ga.) News.

Lots of book reviews, it seems to us, are designed to try to prove that the author of the review is a lot smarter than the author of the book. —Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial-Appeal.

Pretending Facts Are Not Facts Will Get Us Nowhere

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

THE OBVIOUS (and known) intent of Secretary of State Acheson's speech on Asiatic policy was to prepare for the ultimate recognition of the Chinese Communist government.

The Chinese Communist government is now in full possession of China. Going on our bellies to Mao Tse-Tung will earn us a rebuff no doubt, as it has earned the British a rebuff. But pretending that facts are not facts, and that Mao Tse-Tung's government is not ruling China from Peiping, will get us nowhere at all. The obviously possible thing to do is to open relations with this established government, at the earliest appropriate moment, and without any indication of approval.

Recent events, moreover, have vastly strengthened the practical arguments for opening relations with the Chinese Communist government. Behind Acheson's hints about Tito-ism in China, there is solid intelligence which the Secretary did not disclose.

On the one hand, it is probable that Mao Tse-Tung's visit to Moscow constitutes one of the great dramas in the whole history of the Communist Party. The Chinese have a much more specific complaint against the Russians that Acheson indicated.

At the close of the war, Moscow sought to make sure control of Manchuria, by sending out Mao Tse-Tung's old and bitter enemy, Li Li-San, to direct affairs there. Li Li-San, who had been in refuge from Mao Tse-Tung in Moscow since the '20's, for a time was a sort of Viceroy of Manchuria. But with Chinese smoothness, Li Li-San has now been replaced by another Viceroy loyal to Mao Tse-Tung. Moscow, it is reported, has now continued the system of taking all Manchuria's grain production, in exchange for machinery which is never delivered.

At Moscow, the Kremlin is reported to be pressing Mao Tse-Tung for acceptance of a Russian satellite status, on the Polish or Rumanian model. Mao Tse-Tung, in turn, is reported to be pressing for return of the industrial booty stolen by the Russians from Manchuria; for re-establishment of Chinese control of the chief Manchurian cities; and for permission to direct China's affairs, in local necessities dictate. The divergence is very wide.

TITOISM IN JAPAN

Furthermore, although the Soviets are in military control of Manchuria, the Chinese Communist Party still retains military control of China proper. And the party apparatus has not as yet been seriously penetrated by the MVD. In short, in some degree, and relative at least to the affairs of China proper, Mao Tse-Tung is able to speak as an equal to the masters of the Kremlin. From the records of the Kremlin conversations, one must add the even more solid evidence of what has now happened in Japan. Sanzo Nosaka, the real power in the Japanese Communist Party, spent the years from the mid-'30s onward with Mao Tse-Tung, whose close friend he is. When the war ended, he was sent to Japan to re-establish the organization of the Japanese Communist Party, and to transmit to the JPC the Kremlin line of that period. Evidently he established a Japanese party personally dominated by himself. He has now been publicly denounced by the Cominform.

The Japanese Communist Party, in reply to this denunciation, has acknowledged past errors. But the Japanese Communists have neither agreed to change their present line, which was what the Cominform was attacking, nor promised to hurl Nosaka into the outer darkness. Here is Tito-ism in Japan, led by one of Mao Tse-Tung's intimates, and the two groups are function