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SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1957

Integrity Of American Politics At Stake

THERE is a hard-boiled commercial drive behind most large campaign contributions. This fact cannot be camouflaged by idealistic textbook gobbledegook or the imagined security of leaky laws. The big givers just naturally expect a return on their investments.

Nothing illustrated this rule of thumb so brazenly as the financial offer to Sen. Francis Case (R-S.D.) last year from a backer of the natural gas bill. A special lobbying and corrupt practices committee set up to investigate that incident, and others, is scheduled to issue its final report next week.

The whole unpleasant business of campaign financing has already been thoroughly explored by a Senate subcommittee headed by Sen. Albert Schweitzer. In 1956 alone it pinpointed \$33.2 million in expenditures, admitting that "the total campaign bill... far surpasses that figure."

These huge expenditures led the subcommittee to conclude that "the need for immediate legislation in the area of federal elections is imperative and immediate."

The difficulty is that high campaign costs have forced parties and candidates to depend more and more on fewer and fewer large contributors. This dependence, said the subcommittee, poses a threat to the integrity of the whole American political system.

The Gore subcommittee became convinced that: 1—Limits on spending in existing law "fall miserably... and can serve only to demoralize the political climate."

2—Reporting and disclosure requirements "are hopelessly inadequate."

Sen. Gore has introduced a bill which would raise the limits on what candidates can spend, but close the loophole in existing laws that enables them to evade all limits by forming numerous local and temporary committees beyond the reach of federal legislation. It would put a fiction ceiling of \$1,000 a year on an individual's total contributions to candidates for federal office and also restrict interstate shipments of campaign funds.

Furthermore, it would make the candidate himself responsible for authorizing and reporting all spending in his behalf.

The Gore bill may not be the total answer to the vastly complicated problem of campaign spending. It does, however, tackle head-on several of the basic elements of the problem. It would close loopholes that make the Federal Corrupt Practices Act of 1925 a farce and a sham. The integrity of the American political system is clearly at stake. The Gore bill, or a suitable variation, should be passed by the 85th Congress.

But the problem was not tackled at its source. Manufacturers were not required by law to produce refrigerators that could be opened from the inside—thus protecting future generations of children from a gas leak.

It was not until this month that the U. S. Department of Commerce finally decided to adopt a new safety standard requiring all new household refrigerators to be equipped with a device that opens the door from the inside by outward pressure or by turning of a knob.

Why it took so long is not known. Infants studies of children inside simulated refrigerators have shown that they usually tried to escape by pushing on the door or turning a doorknob. The new safety standard was long, long overdue.

There was a tragic wave of these accidents several years ago. Both the press and the general public demanded that something be done.

Many local governments responded, cracking down on owners of abandoned refrigerators.

THE agonizing languor with which government sometimes reacts to problems involving public safety is one of the curses of our age.

In Campbell, N. Y. this week, two young sisters suffocated inside an abandoned refrigerator when the door abruptly shut while they were playing. Police said the children, 4 and 6 years of age, had evidently been locked inside for an hour. The interior of the box showed signs of their struggle to free themselves.

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maximum of \$50 fine or 30 days imprisonment plus dismissal, and a convicted offender would not have been able to hold any state position for five years.

The bill was aimed at Dr. Ellen Winston, who is occasionally invited to Washington to testify on welfare legislation and other matters on Rep. Snapp's desk not always agree.

House Judiciary II Committee possibly saved the state a great deal of embarrassment by quietly giving the bill an unfavorable report. We can only hope that the measure will Rest in Peace.

FOR AN UNFORTUNATE MEASURE, R.I.P.

THERE were few mourners at graveside this week when a House committee quietly buried Rep. Frank Snapp's unfortunate bill "to prohibit certain officers of the state from appearing before the Congress of the United States and any of its committees and urging the adoption, rejection, amendment or repeal of any federal law."

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Authenticity Of Declaration Proudly Defended

newspapers of Charlotte have continued to ridicule the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. I would think that the local papers would be very proud of this great event in history, which happened right here in the center of our town. At least the newspapers should have enough local pride to back the Declaration unless they can prove it false.

Well known and reputable professional historians back the authenticity of the Mecklenburg Declaration. Prof. William C. Mal-

lachie of the University of Louisville, in a recent issue of the Historical Quarterly, stated, "The Mecklenburg Declaration must be accepted as a historical fact." Some historians are skeptical, it is true, but those to whom I have talked I find have not even bothered to read the facts.

In 1819 there was a debate in the United States Congress as to which state, Massachusetts, Virginia or North Carolina, was the first to carry the torch of freedom. The Congress decided in fa-

vor of North Carolina on the basis of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. The National Declaration Day.

There are many points to substantiate the claim of Mecklenburg, but perhaps this is one reason why so few people can understand the complete story. They are, therefore, driven to ridicule as an escape.

I would be pleased to hear a rebuttal to any one specific point, a point that is easy to understand; for instance, There is now in the archives of the Moravian Church in Winston-Salem an original manuscript written in German by Traugott Bragge and completed in 1783. In addition, this document is in-

"I cannot leave unmentioned at the end of the 1778 year that already in the summer of this year, that is in May, June, or July, the people of Mecklenburg in North Carolina declared itself free and independent of England, and the administration of the laws among themselves, as later the Continental Congress made known. This Congress, however, considered these proceedings premature."

But my object is not to argue with my own paper, I simply want to say that I can't understand why we don't have the loyalty that we have a right to expect.

J. A. STUBHOUSE

Editor's Note: The News would not think of ridiculing the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

Councilmen Should Go Back To School

THE constant bombardment of Councilwoman Martha Evans in the past few days has gone a little far.

First, let me explain I am not a "Martha Evans follower." I don't see the woman, never see her. I do resent, however, the inference by the other members of the Council, through the press, that a Councilman N. or woman, must always shake his head up and down and never from side to side and make a show of criticizing Mrs. Evans for not speaking at the "pre-meeting" meeting? Why should there be any pre-meeting meetings anyway? I see to me the people of Charlotte deserve to hear, in open meeting, all sides of a question—not just a resolution reached at a closed session.

Isn't there room in the Council for an honest difference of opinion? Isn't that the way to arrive at the best conclusion—seeing all sides before making a decision? Isn't honest disagreement what really makes democracy tick? I see some of our Councilmen should go back to school for another lesson in basic Americanism—including the freedom of speech.

DOROTHY A. PRESSER

'Learn By Doing' —That's Education

Editor: The News: McLee, S. C. THE Sycamore tree is one of the easiest trees to propagate from seed and from cuttings and stump culture. It is truly an engine of lawn and street shade trees as well as a valuable timber tree.

In raising this tree from seed, collect the seed in the late fall or early spring. You can get the seed in the thin shell and plant about 4 inch in sandy loam in part shade. In a few days the seed will break and a small plant or seedling will appear and commence to grow. It should remain in half shade for the first year and then transplanted to its permanent location. It will grow rapidly so give it plenty of space and room for its roots when you first set the tree or when necessary.

When propagating from cuttings — cut only the recent growth from standing trees or sucker growth around a c a m o r e stumps. If you're taking cuttings from stumps, leave at least one sucker

on the stump. These cuttings should only be taken in the fall of the season, in the dormant stage. Take the cutting and stick it into good bottom soil. At the end of the first year you'll be surprised to view its progress. You can put the cuttings around your house if you desire. They should provide good much material to retain moisture.

Stump culture of the Sycamore is perhaps the easiest since all you have to do is remove all of the suckers except one, cover the stump with dirt and let the tree grow. Mulch with pine straw or manure and at back and water it grow.

You don't have to be an expert to do this or raise anything else, for do you have to be an expert in formal education. All you have to have is the desire to do things that are good, and do them. Then you learn while doing and that you learn is education.

— MARK A. BROWN

City Limits Extension Called 'Trojan Horse'

Editor: The News: THE city limits will be extended. Another Trojan Horse has been brought into our city. It is called in the walls by the citizens and with about as much benefits to them as accrued to the citizens of Troy.

There are now approximately 12 square miles of area inside the present city limits. The proposed extension in area would take in approximately 32 square miles. The doubling in area means doubling in length of sewer lines, water lines, garbage collection, fire protection and almost all other city services and thus almost doubling in city taxes. If the city taxpayer loses, then someone must gain correspondingly. The owners of large tracts of land in the perimeter area will benefit as their land will be worth much more with city water and sewer available.

A present, when a tract is subdivided into lots, the developer pays the cost of carrying city water and sewer out of his subdivision. Ultimately, the cost is passed on to the home owner. If the perimeter area is annexed, the particular homeowner will not bear the cost, but it will be shared by all city taxpayers.

At present, Mr. George Good-year is carrying a sewer line several miles to his Sherrill development at his own expense and the home owner will eventually pay for this in the cost of his home. If this area is annexed, the developer, for this, and similar areas, will be annexed every city taxpayer would bear the cost.

It would seem much more logical for the city to take Seward Park, or perhaps Thomasboro, inside the city limits and wait 10 or 20 years before annexing the remainder of the perimeter area. If we were done, the area would be building up in the meantime, and when annexation was carried out, taxable residences would be brought in, instead of just lots, and sewer and water lines would be largely installed.

I think it is clear that too much vacant land is being brought in since the perimeter area is as large in size as the present City of Charlotte and yet contains only about 30,000 people. The City Council does not see it this way. But after all, when they do, they should intend to widen Rouseff Ave. one day after the election, instead of widening Graham St., Hutchison Ave., or Rozelle Sts. Ferry Rd., I didn't expect them to understand this more complicated problem.

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'Damn Rascal'

"And any man that tries his law cases that way, and puffs up his chest telling you how honest and just he is, and what a great man he's going to be when he gets down to the Governor's Mansion in Raleigh, a man like that ain't nothing but a damn rascal and doesn't deserve a cent."

The jury cut the \$75,000 down to \$37,000 man who went around after serving as governor of North Carolina, turned around and elected brother-in-law to be governor, later a U.S. senator.

Dove, Circa 1957



Here's The Solution Daylight Wasting Time

By ROBERT C. RUARK

WILMINGTON A LOCAL iconoclast has come up with an idea that is vastly intriguing.

Two, and only two, of North Carolina's counties went on Daylight Saving Time Sunday night, and the whole town's talking about it.

My man's son it. He wants a daylight wasting time instead. This saving time, which would obtain in fall and winter, gives you an extra hour in bed when it's a waste to have yourself out of a warm sack and take on the day's chores in cold clothes.

My home town is very firm against about change. Why the late and hallowed F.D.R. made us presumptuous, even for a Grotton graduate, my people down here ignored it. For that matter, they generally managed to ignore the centre New Deal.

NO FOR AN ANSWER

We are what's known as contrary. Brains, the late Gov. O. Max Gardner, the Cape Fear River, is always basically Republican when the Democrats are in, and vice versa. I am a Democrat when the Republicans hold the reins. Like my grandpa once said: "When I agree, I mean it. And very frequently when I say yes, I still mean no."

However, an old friend of these distinguished North Carolinians I should like to recall some pleasant memories of their service to the fellow men.

Gardner's Friendliness

Max Gardner was offered many high offices but turned most of them down. He, however, people more than position. When he sat down for a visit he wanted to know all about the other fellow's problems—ever mentioned his own.

Clyde Hoey, his brother-in-law, I first met in a sweatered hot school house in eastern North Carolina in 1936. He was campaigning for governor. Despite the heat, he was immaculate in his dress, and his hair was flowing brown like a red rose was pinned in his lapel.

His reputation he was famous to those who did not know him well for his old fashioned attire. To those who knew him well it is still famous for the fair and scholarly manner in which he conducted investigations.

Coined 'New Deal'

Most people don't know it, but Max Gardner had a great deal to do with starting the New Deal. When he was governor of North Carolina and Franklin Roosevelt was governor of New York, Max wrote to F.R. in Albany: "The American people are on the move. I were you I would become more liberal, because I tell you the masses are marching and if we are to be thrown into the discard, we are saved by the liberal interpretations of the sentiments now ruling in the heart of man."

"I am satisfied we are in the day of a new deal and that many of our preconceived ideas and formulas are going to be thrown into the discard. We are more than blind if we think the American people can be hitched to the status quo. The camp lives of the past are abandoned and the frontiers of thinking have extended beyond the limit hitherto set by the conservative minds of this country."

Max believed that creed not only in 1928 when he wrote Franklin Roosevelt, but to the very end.

MAKE IT LATER ABED

But if you have to make artificial adjustments to the sun's fixed habit of rising and setting, you and Oscar Pearson, who writes letters to the editor. Let me make a large statement to a small intelligent, like the Spaniards, let us make it "intensive." That means that all shops close at 2 p.m. in the summer months and the sun doesn't set until 9.

The Spaniards get to work at 8 a.m. on an engine that runs from 8 a.m. out the flamenco, but since he quits at 2 p.m., he has better than half a day to catch up on his rest, or activity.

And I have a personal improvement on the intensive. I get up at 2 p.m. and don't do any work at all.

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Draw Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

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A Salute To Two Tar Heel Friends

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From The Charleston News & Courier

ARCHY AND MEHITABEL

LIFE is dark enough, some people tell us, what with hydrogen bombs, skyrocketing taxes, Middle East revolutions, crime waves and other gloomy events. Why can't newspapers and this people in the ribs a little more often?

The NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE must have been pondering that question the other day when it reprinted some of the verse that columnist Don Marquis wrote during the 1920s. The verse concerned the doing of archy, the cockroach, and mehitable, the