



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Luther The Lionhearted To The Rescue

WITH the air of a man who is sure of his own strength, Gov. Luther H. Hodges came out boldly for most of the Bell Committee's proposals for court reform yesterday. It was one of those inspirational lectures at once heart-warming, God-fearing and unambiguously flamboyant that the governor has given so well. The political effect is still to be tested, but no schoolmaster ever had a more attentive class than Mr. Hodges.

The governor's support is welcome. He indicated that he had grasped rather thoroughly the essentials of the Bell Committee's program and favored them over a slightly different approach suggested by the Constitutional Study Commission.

The crucial question is whether the authority for judicial administration ought to be vested in the Supreme Court, as proposed by the Bell Committee, or the General Assembly, as proposed by the Constitutional Study Commission.

Without attempting to say precisely what item of detail should be written into the constitution, it is my opinion that we should vest the responsibility for the administration of a unified court system in the Supreme Court of North Carolina.

But, characteristically the governor offered some sop to dissenters.

"If this delegation of responsibility,

without recourse, except by amendment of the constitution, be deemed unwise, it is my recommendation that we vest this responsibility in the judiciary, subject to the constitutional provision that any authority with respect to judicial administration vested in the Supreme Court by this provision may be exercised by the General Assembly itself, by a three-fifths vote of the Senate and House of Representatives, without a vote of the people."

It is a curious suggestion and it waters down somewhat the firm principles stated earlier in the Hodges address concerning the fundamental philosophy of separation of powers, the fitness of the Supreme Court to tackle the task of judicial administration and the need for it to have essential authority to carry out this responsibility. If these principles are sound—and we believe they are—the intrusion of the General Assembly is hardly necessary.

Nevertheless, Mr. Hodges has given both the legislature and the people a clear picture of North Carolina's greatest need. If he did not endorse every item on the Bell Committee's agenda, he at least embraced most of the recommended program. It was more than many of the plan's most ardent proponents had expected.

The General Assembly's duty is well defined. It should adopt the Bell Committee's version of a unified judicial system without crippling compromises.

The 'Big Issue' Isn't The Whole Story

THE identity of the Big Issue before the 1959 General Assembly was no longer in doubt today. In his special message on constitutional revision, Gov. Hodges devoted 11 pages to judicial reform and only 3 1/2 to other recommended changes.

It was a fairly accurate reflection of the political potency of individual items in the state's proposed new constitution.

Even though the governor's ideas on the courts hogged the headlines, the importance of some of his other judgments must not be overlooked.

For instance, Mr. Hodges reiterated his strong opposition to the proposal that the constitutional mandate for "a general and uniform system of public schools" be abolished. "This language was placed in our state constitution in 1868," said he, "and through these many years has provided a sound and enduring beacon light for the people of North Carolina. It has meant that the people of our state were interested in education for the children of this state, throughout the length and breadth of the state. It has kept before us a high ideal, a worthy objective and a practical guide."

Well spoken. To delete this language because of what may or may not happen in the desegregation crisis would be terribly tragic. Mr. Hodges should be commended for his wise and reasonable stand on this.

Takeoff Failure Hobbles A Skylark

WHAT has been described as poetry, to be charitable, caught Mecklenburg House delegates with their verses down this week.

Rep. Hugh Humphrey of Guilford built the inner fire with eight stanzas of what amounted to a backhand compliment for the trip to Charlotte.

Obviously unprepared for such an assault, Rep. Frank Stepp could return the volley with only wetpowder repartee.

Upon reading the Guilford delegate's lines, however, we believe he is suffering from a bad case of primary-grade dangling lambic foot and meter disease. For example:

"You took us to lunch and to supper at the 'Buggest homes to which I've ever gone; But what really shook me all up

E. E. Knuffold in *The Dodge* (Neb.) Criterion

'I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY'

I WAS reminded of all this when a man said to me: "I wish you hadn't printed that picture of my daughter. It was a poor one and didn't look like her at all." I said: "I'm sorry."

It wasn't long after that a man complained to me that I was showing favoritism when I failed to print a picture that he was interested in, yet printed a similar one of a different group later. I said: "I'm sorry."

Another fellow some time later asked, "How come you passed up the story on that particular farming activity?" I said: "I'm sorry."

And then there's the time the frate young man called on the phone and in no uncertain tones said that we had misspelled the name of her new baby. I said: "I'm sorry."

Another member of the gentler sex called the CRENSHAW one time and informed me that we had omitted a name from her party guest list and that she wanted to cancel her subscription. I said: "I'm sorry." Then I checked the list and found she was a long time in arrears.

Still another called one day last winter and indicated that we had intentionally

"Was the thought of mowing those big lawns?"

To simplify the diagnosis, if this type of big pitch were made for the New York Yankees, the hurler would finish the season with Salami, S. D., of the Four-Eyed League.

The freshman member of the House did have a good title: "Ode to a Legislator's Skylark." But to paraphrase another Shelley work, the neophyte Prometheus became unbound after that and fell to pieces.

It's explainable, though. Rep. Humphrey himself said he "was seized with a poetic fever as I reposed in my native village of Greensboro over the weekend."

We just wish they'd get that swamp cleaned up.

By golly, I couldn't think of a thing to say.

To make the suburbanite happy, give him a thumbs-up, but be sure it isn't accurate, since he'll want to use it brag that it was 10 degrees colder than official on his back porch.—COLUMBIA STAFF.

Democrats Must Be Right If They Buck Ike's Plans

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON (AP)—Eisenhower took command of the executive-legislative conference on the Berlin crisis and in crisp language rare for him outlined the dilemma his policy poses for the loyal opposition.

The question of unity of purpose



SEN. FULBRIGHT Like Kansas City does not arise on that point the ranks are closed.

Sen. Fulbright in his address to the country has ample military means to back up his commitment to stand fast in defense against all contingencies. True, Democratic

Congress almost without exception thinks it has not.

The President regards an unbalanced budget as more dangerous to national security than the missile gap arising between the United States and Russia. Democrats do not agree.

ELECTIONS BURT

The initiative is in the President's hands. But the elections last fall gave the Democrats a sweeping mandate and many observers translated as a demand for strong leadership. Their best politicians of every ideological persuasion are now in the Senate and Senate majorities as a call for action as opposed to merely holding the line.

In Washington itself, the President has altered the climate somewhat by a show of strength in the last few weeks when it was originally anticipated that Secretary of State Dulles was critically ill. But public confidence which it has once been shaken in matters of this kind is not easily regained.

The Democrats, who are miffing it, are not likely to attack in Washington on two counts: How long it will take the country to recede the change, and whether the President's conduct will keep it up.

DANGER SIGHTED

They know how difficult it would be for the Democrats to win administratively to force changes in the Eisenhower political direction. They see clearly the political danger to them.

Lyndon Johnson Poor Wager For Democratic Nomination

By JOSEPH ALSOP

WASHINGTON (AP)—The convention fight for the Democratic nomination is rapidly coming to a high rolling ball. The scores this week were one much discussed candidate probably eliminated, and one blood-soaked and vital primary probably assured.

Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson of Texas was the candidate probably eliminated. With every appearance of sincerity, Sen. Johnson has been saying for months that his heart attack alone ruled him out as a candidate. This reporter and the others who believed the senator was in a genuine way, however, constituted a small minority. Now, however, there is evidence that ought to convince a much wider circle.

FRIEND KNOWS

In brief, the able Washington lawyer, James Howe Jr., has long been one of Lyndon Johnson's closest friends and most intimate advisers. No one has had a better chance than he to judge Johnson's intentions.

If Howe thought there was any possibility of a Johnson candidacy,



SEN. LYNDON JOHNSON

he would be leading the Johnson parade. Instead, after talking over the matter with Johnson at great length, Howe has finally joined the campaign apparatus of Sen. Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota. He went out to the Midwest Democratic conference at Milwaukee last weekend as an anti-Humphrey agent.

BATTLE SIGHTED

In the circumstances, the choice made by Howe is a considerable event. Nevertheless, there is still greater meaning in the prospect of a new, self-determined, knock-out against Wisconsin primary. This also emerged from the weekend rally at Milwaukee.

The fact further illuminates the Wisconsin primary's importance. In brief, the Democratic hierarchy in Wisconsin has been divided for months in decisions about Sen. Gaylord Nelson as pretty solidly committed to Sen. Humphrey. One of two members of Congress, like Rep. Henry Reuss, are also leaning to Humphrey. Sen. Sherman Adams, who is committed to no one at all, and in the higher reaches of the Democratic State Committee, there is a good deal of sentiment for Sen.

John Kennedy of Massachusetts.

The Wisconsin tradition of conservative open primaries, openly arrived at, and the more blood let on the floor the better. In these circumstances, the entire Democratic hierarchy tentatively agreed, a good many weeks ago, to let the voters decide their direction. The Wisconsin primary was drafted, for signature by the governor and everyone else, which would have invited all the more Democratic candidates to come into the Wisconsin primary for a free-for-all test of strength.

It is to be expected that this round-robin letter ran into difficulties, however, because a series of soundings showed that Sen. Kennedy was consistently stronger in Wisconsin than Sen. Humphrey. For Kennedy, of course, it would be a fatal victory to win an open primary in the heart of the agricultural Midwest, where he is not supposed to be strong. For Humphrey, by the same token, it would be a disaster to lose in a primary where he is supposed to be strong. He was foisted by Kennedy in his own political backyard.

KENNEDY LEADS

Apparently the Humphrey high command became convinced that Kennedy in fact possessed a commanding lead in Wisconsin. At any rate, the Humphrey forces, working through Gov. Nelson, caused the round-robin letter scheme to be abandoned. The Humphrey forces already been drafted and circulated. An effort was then made, according to Nelson, to ward off Wisconsin primary by getting up a favorite son pledge of delegates, to be ostensibly placed either to the anti-me himself or to Sen. Fromme.

Sen. Fromme poured a gallon of ice water on this new expedient. It was quickly abandoned by the governor prior to the Milwaukee week end meeting. Over the matter, the Wisconsin State Committee then adopted a resolution "recommending" all bona fide presidential candidates to appear at the primary and offering to help any candidate who chose to enter.

ANOTHER METHOD

That would seem to settle the matter. There have been renewed rumors of renewed efforts by the governor to use the favorite son expedient. It is not clear, however, how he will now be very hard to avoid, if only because Sen. Kennedy seems to be increasingly anxious for the fray.

Wisconsin boys, then, as one of the two really critical tests of strength between Humphrey and Jack Kennedy. The other can be expected to occur in Oregon. In Oregon, however, no such expedient has been proposed, being being entered in Oregon, therefore, Sen. Stuart Symington of Missouri may also find it difficult to stick to his preferred strategy of lying low and hoping the Democratic professionals will pick him in the end.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON (AP)—There has been some eight conflict-of-interest cases unarbitrated in the Eisenhower administration, ranging from the way Harold Talbot, who was forced to resign as Secretary of the Air Force, to Sherman Adams, who was forced to resign as secretary of his friend, Bernard Gold. In every case, the official involved has been kicked out of government but not out of a case. That of FCC Commissioner Richard Mack, a Democrat, has been prosecuted.

Different Results

In only one case furthermore has a major even indirectly connected with a conflict of interest been punished. Lewis Strauss, Republican, is secretary of commerce.

Yet a criminal statute, Title 18, U.S. Code, provides criminal punishment for

Caudle's Case Sparks Other Probing

all violators, not just Democrats. So far, Congress, predominantly Democratic, has not had any real opportunity to probe the Caudle case. But last week two things happened which have already started investigative wheels turning.

None For Caudle

The Justice Dept. last stated in court that Caudle had received no material compensation for his alleged failure to prosecute a St. Louis tax evader. Connolly did get two suits and an overcoat.

For if they decide to split with him by demanding new missile programs and unbalancing the budget they must not only be right, they must appear to be right in the eyes of the voter in the short run. That short run, of course, is to them the time elapsing between now and 1960—or conceivably between now and Armageddon.

The President speaks with a single voice and has the White House as his sounding board. It is the best in the world. Democrats speak with many voices and there will inevitably be differences among them.

An immensely difficult amalgam of statesmanship and politics is indicated for all the Democratic leaders. It is very probably going to separate the men from the boys in unlooked-for ways.

It is probably fortunate that the man in deal center—Chairman Fulbright of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee—cannot be numbered among the presidential aspirants. His Arkansas base leads him to choose reaction on civil rights, he is a signer of the

Southern Manifesto. Electrically he has like Kansas City in the song, gone about as far as he can go.

His future now rests with his candor and industry in his present post. He has only just inherited it from the aged, failing Sen. Green of Rhode Island precisely because Green could not lead.

Sen. Fulbright is speaking the language of prudence about a conflict with the executive branch on foreign policy. But it would be impossible to exaggerate the strength of his feeling that the present policy is one vast pitfall.

'—And In The Next Performance, I Will Negotiate While Drinking A Glass Of Water'



People's Platform A View Of Sterilization

Charlotte (AP)—DR. RACHEL Darden Davis, a freshman representative to North Carolina's Legislature from Lenoir, has offered a bill authorizing the sterilization of mothers of dependent children.

Dr. Davis says one of every 10 children she has delivered are illegitimate. She feels certain the proposed law would save our taxpayers great sums of money by preventing further illegitimacies, and eliminating need of paying welfare funds for support of dependent mothers and children.

Dr. Davis offers a protective clause in her bill, allowing affected mothers to appeal to Superior Court and demand a jury trial before submitting to this surgery. She fails to say, however, who would furnish counsel for these poor-troubled girls, or who would bear the cost of such jury trials.

If enacted, this bill would, unfortunately, offer little relief to the taxpayer, for we would be assuming a moral responsibility for the physical well-being of the mothers for the remainder of their natural life. The surgery and required treatment would, in any case, weigh the amount now paid out in welfare allowances. It would also encourage the illegal and dangerous practice of abortion.

On its face the Davis bill is unconstititutional, since it would assume a parental punishment for failing a criminal act, while ignoring the guilt of the other parent, who in most cases is essentially either and presumably-married.

No kind reader. These little illegitimate children are not the result of artificial insemination and Dr. Davis bill makes no mention of sterilizing the proud parents. Nor does it even provide for the ghosting father the privilege of assuming a financial responsibility for the rearing of his progeny.

Speaking before Charlotte's Kiwanis Club last week, another woman physician, Dr. Patricia Lawrence, gave some interesting facts on this important problem. Dr. Lawrence told us that the average age of the mothers of illegitimate babies was 17 years. Increasing numbers of births by girls 12, 13, 14 and 15 was certainly reducing this average though, and that legitimate births were increasing among the white race, while decreasing among Negroes. Yes! We refer to just these facts, these sad statistics apply to our better families as well as those in the lower income bracket.

At such a tender age, these mothers are these children themselves. To even consider mutilating their young bodies in such a way as to render them incapable of motherhood in future life, and to make normal house life so probable indeed is simply too cruel for serious consideration of civilized people.

One resident has frustrated the world since Mother Eve bit into the first green apple from the tree of later experience in the Garden of Eden, and it's our world it will be troubling our offspring for many months after the well meaning but misguided old man from Lenoir has passed on to his reward.

The amount our state is paying in welfare allowances for dependent mothers and their illegitimate children, is probably less than we are paying in efforts to learn how to raise better child and their lines.

If the statements of the two physicians are correct, this law does not apply just to an unfortunate minority group, but to homes like yours and mine. Yes, to kids like yours and mine.

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Charlotte Session On Laws For Mothers?

Charlotte (AP)—I WOULD like to express thanks to those nice law makers for not inviting the Negro children to their big business session held here in Charlotte last week.

So now it frees them the children of their obligations to the law. Since they don't know how the laws are made, why worry about how they are broken?

And when the chief executive makes those speeches about the people, by the people and for the people? They can just turn a deaf ear because he is not relevant to Negroes. He is talking about people.

When God made his laws He put them where the whole world could benefit from them. Therefore the Charlotte meeting must have been about making laws to take to the moon.

To the uninvited, let us pray, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

—LOUISE ARDERY

Mr. Krav's Views Bring A Hurrah

Clinton, S. C.

I WANT to congratulate Mr. Henry Krav on his letter to the Peoples Platform in the Charlotte News. In discussing the different phases of the United States and Russia, he hit the nail on the head. I wish only some of the leaders of our government would look at the danger of war in the light as Mr. Krav does.

—P. C. FURR

Easier To Figure

It's a lot easier for the public to understand two suits of clothes and an overcoat given to a Democrat," remarked Sen. Estes Kefauver, "or a front porch rented by a Democratic congressman than it is to understand a \$299,000,000 interest contract negotiated in secrecy by Republican General Bill Rogers."

Kefauver was referring to the Dixon-Yates conflict-of-interest case, in which banker Kenneth Wenzell was caught planted inside the Budget Bureau conferring with Adm. Strauss to block the Tennessee Valley Authority and bring a big profit to Wenzell's First Boston.

A letter written by efficient, politically minded Attorney General Bill Rogers raised Senate hackles regarding these

two brands of justice, one for Democrats, one for Republicans, and brought an immediate study of the records.