

ON THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

You know Will Rogers once said that he didn't belong to any organized political party; he was a Democrat!

Sometimes I think we Democrats all feel this way - that we don't belong to an "organized political party" - that we're just plain Democrats. We're Democrats who take our politics seriously, who campaign hard and fight like tigers for the candidates of our choice and quite often fight among ourselves.

But, I've never been too concerned about Democrats fighting among themselves. I remember the story Dougald McRae over in Harnett County tells which is always a lot of consolation to me.

Dougald says that when he was a boy he was sitting in the house one night when he heard the worst noise he had ever heard in his life outside the window. It seems it was mating season for the cats and you know what a bunch of noise they can make. Dougald tells me he turned to his mother and said, "Momma, what does all the noise and 'afighting' out there mean?"

His Momma answered without batting any eye, "All that means Dougald is that before long there's going to be more cats around here."

Well, that's what it usually means when you hear a bunch of Democrats fighting -- it means that before long there are going to be more Democrats than there were before. It takes a good fight to get their blood circulating; their dander up; and their weapons harpened to take on Republicans.

Friends, we are going to need every Democrat we have this fall. And you know we have them. Their names are on the books and if they come to the polls they will vote Democratic. But, we've got to get them there. That's the job we've got cut out for us. We've got to get our good Democrats to the polls so they can mark those tickets for the fine slate of candidates we have here in this county.

The Republicans are going to have their people out. They are out stirring them up now and they're going to be doing more of it later on. They're bringing Cousin spontaneous, saprogenous, scallaway Spiro to North Carolina

right before the election to try to do for the North Carolina Republicans what they can't do for themselves - win elections!

Frankly, I don't think they're going to have much success. As a matter of fact, if our Governor's wife, Jesse Ray, is in town when he buzzes in, he'd better watch out or he may end up being rapped by the mansion fly swatter or the executive broom handle. She's out to get Spiro and, in my opinion, Spiro's rambling, rancorous, rancid rhetoric is no match for the wiley-winning words of North Carolina's most very beautiful and charming first lady.

I guess we shouldn't make jokes about the Vice President, though, because everytime we do, it reminds us that the joke's really on us - the citizens of this nation.

I wonder what the Vice President will have to say when he comes to the Tar Heel State? I don't know, but I hope, instead of a learned display of the English language, he will talk about the current economic picture and what the Nixon administration has been doing

or is planning to do for the people who elected him.

Will Rogers said that all he knew was what he read in the paper. I've been reading the paper lately and there have been some pretty disturbing things said about the economy. I hope some Republican can explain them to us.

What does the paper say? Here's what it says"

"Unemployment climbed sharply in September to 5.5% of the nation's working force and millions of unemployed workers brought home smaller pay checks because of shorter working hours, the Labor Department reported today ..."

"The number of unemployed rose from 75,000 to 4.3 million... The unemployment total included 1,562,000 men, 1,598,000 women, and 1,131,000 teenagers."

Sounds familiar doesn't it? It should. It's the same old Republicans, up to the same old tricks.

Every time Mr. Nixon goes on TV or puts on one of his "economic advisers" to try to cover up for the

administration, they tell us that this unemployment is good for us, that they're curing the nation's ills and that we must learn to live with this economic pinch. They call it a recession; I call it a depression; I call it Republicans - just being Republicans - putting the working man out of work, shrinking the dollar, and saying tightening up your belt, it's good for you.

To tell you the turth, I've enjoyed about all of the Nixon administration that I can stand and I believe the working people of this county, state and nation have also.

There is an old saying that you can double your money if you fold it when you put it in your pocket. I've tried it, then folded it again, then tried to squeeze another fold, but I still haven't been able to make it go around.

I heard the Attorney General, Robert Morgan, say the other day a comment that I think pretty well points up the dilemma we are in. He said that the Republican Party had accomplished the impossible, that they had done what scholars and economists throughout the

have said was impossible - they have given us a depression and inflation at the same time.

They have reduced the number of dollars in people's pockets and then shrunk those few dollars we have. Those of you who remember the great depression of the thirties know that at least then if you had a dollar, it went a long way. That's no longer true today.

And who does this hit the hardest? The poor, the retired who live on fixed incomes, the owners of insurance policies, every contributor to a retirement system. The people that over the decades the Democratic Party has shown compassion and concern for, developed programs for - these are the same people the Republicans are ignoring and neglecting and depriving.

I hope Mr. Agnew talks about the interest rate and the fact that our young people just starting their families can no longer afford to buy homes and more and more must, by necessity, become apartment dwellers or live in mobile homes. We used to talk matter-of-factly about getting married, building a home and starting a family. But those days are gone, I'm afraid, unless we can reverse this Republican economy. It looks like

the current money market is going to limit homes to the fortunate few and make apartments and mobile homes the order of the day for the masses of our young people.

I hope the Vice President talks about "law and order" when he comes to North Carolina. He says that we Democrats are "boxed in" on the law and order issue; he says that we've coddled those who have disobeyed the law and caused violence and destruction. Maybe he had better check the record before he comes to North Carolina unless he wants to embarrass himself and the tottering Republican candidates he has come to prop up.

It was the Nixon administration which asked the Congress to cut \$520 million from the Safe Streets Act of 1968 (a Democratic program by the way) and then turned around and proposed a massive welfare program to provide a guaranteed annual income for every family. It is the Nixon administration which has sponsored legislation which so infringes upon the individual liberties of our people that it has drawn the constant fire of North Carolina's conservative Senator Sam Ervin.

Let him look and see what the Democratic administration did in North Carolina when violence erupted on our

campuses. Our Governor, our Democratic governor, stepped in in a way that made us all proud and made sure that our college and university campuses did not become a haven for law breakers. His common sense and cool dealing saved this State the turmoil which many others have experienced.

Let him look to the accomplishments of our Attorney General, who is this State's chief law officer. Working with our Governor, he is establishing a state-wide police information network connecting law enforcement agencies throughout the State, giving them, at a moment's notice, the information they need to fight crime more effectively.

Working with our Governor and Democratic Legislature, he has more than doubled the size of the State Bureau of Investigation, upgraded its laboratory facilities, established regional offices, put mobile crime laboratories in the field and developed other services to help local law enforcement officials fight the rising crime rate.

Working with the leaders of many State Agencies, our Governor, our Democratic governor, has started planning

for a State Criminal Justice Training Academy to be located in Raleigh to offer training to law enforcement officials throughout this State - one of the greatest steps any State can take toward improving law enforcement and coping with the crime rate.

And much more has been done that I could tell you about. Friend, this is not just talk, this is what North Carolina is doing and I'm so proud to be a Democrat in North Carolina that I don't know what to do.

Let Mr. Agnew talk about taxes when he comes to North Carolina if he wants to. We'll tell him to look at the record and see that North Carolina gives its citizens more services per tax dollar spent than almost any other State in the Union. We'll tell him that the State of North Carolina maintains 10% of all the state-owned highways in the United States and with 3% of the tax dollars. We'll tell him how North Carolina is developing industrially by leaps and bounds because over the years our Democratic administrations have been concerned about highways as arteries of commerce and have insisted that we plan for the future.

We'll show him our good public schools; a system of higher education unequalled, in my opinion, anywhere in America; our mental hospitals and programs for the physically handicapped. We'll show him our technical institutes, our parks and recreational areas, and a thousand other programs and services offered the citizens of North Carolina by its government and then ask him where anyone, anywhere, is getting more return on his tax dollar. I dare him to try to answer.

Now, the Republicans have a billboard on the streets - it pictures a long-haired, bearded youth waving the peace sign and riding away on a motorcycle. It pictures an older man and woman waving sadly goodbye. I believe we are to get the idea that the young people are the Democratic Party platform and the older people are being left behind.

Let me remind you here tonight just who instigated care for the aged in the State and the Nation. It was a Democratic Congress and a Democratic President that passed social security into law and gave our older people an income. It was a Democratic Congress that fought for Medicare. The Democratic Party has never left the older people behind nor do we intend to leave the young people for they need us.

I get impatient with the youth of the day as you do, but we must provide positive authority and leadership - we can't help them if we wave them good-bye. Despite their air of independence they need us more than ever.

They need us to tell them to turn down the (damn) noise of the amplified rock band because they are in

truth becoming a deaf generation. They need us to save them from this adolescent nonsense about drugs before they inflict upon themselves casualties far more savage and tragic than any in Vietnam. We're not going to desert our young people and I'm glad I am not a member of a party that is deserting their youth.

No, we're not going to desert our youth and I don't believe many of our people are going to desert the Democratic Party in North Carolina because I believe the Democratic Party of today is still the same party that Franklin Roosevelt was talking about in 1935 when he stated that it was its purpose.

"...to increase the security and the happiness of a large number of people in all occupations of life and in all parts of the country; to give them more of the good things of life; to give them a greater distribution, not only of wealth in the narrow terms but of wealth in the wider terms; to give them places to go in the summer time - recreation; to give them assurance that they are not going to starve in their old age; to give honest business a chance to go ahead and make a reasonable profit; and to give everyone a chance to earn a living."

A great North Carolina Democrat of that same period spoke also for the continuation of the Democratic Party's power and leadership and his words are just as applicable today. Governor Hoey said, and I quote:

"The Democratic Party has a great heritage in its record of service to this State and Nation ...The Party is permanent ... It is made up of people of varying shades of political thought. It should be so. If all Democrats were conservative, we should make progress too slowly ... If all were radical, we would run away with ourselves and wreck the government. By combining all of these elements together, we have the balance and checks which make for sane and progressive government."

Then Governor Hoey concluded by saying, and again I quote, "... (the Democratic Party) was a responsible instrument for the administration of government before any of those who now occupy a place on the stage of action in our State and Nation were born, and it shall continue to be the champion of popular rights and the interpreter of the hopes and aspirations of men and women throughout the land, when they have all passed to their reward."

I share the faith of these two great Democrats of another day because I can look to the performance and leadership of Democrats of today. We'll take on the local Republicans, and anybody they run in on us from North of the Potomac - we'll take them all on including Spiro, and we'll win November 3!

Thank you.
