



The Evening Bulletin

ESTABLISHED 1847

William L. McLean, President and Publisher, 1895-1931

PUBLISHED EVENING AND SUNDAY BY BULLETIN COMPANY
30TH AND MARKET STREETS, PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19101

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22 B THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1966

Planning to Plan

The \$26,000 federal grant made available to help the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission "define" its job is a necessary first step. But it hardly "refutes" all of the recent criticism of the Commission by the Governors' Interstate Advisory Committee, as Commission Secretary Lawrence G. Williams hastily insisted it did.

Even when matched on a one-third basis by state and local governments represented on the commission, the federal grant will pay only for a very modest professional and clerical staff—big enough, perhaps, to draft some preliminary outlines of the Commission's enormous tasks but certainly not equipped to begin any real nuts-and-bolts work.

More or less theoretical notions of what the Commission should undertake will be no substitute for a beginning on

concrete regional planning of land use and resource development. If such planning is to have the necessary backing, if it is to have an impact on the actual operations of government in the Delaware Valley area, the fuller involvement of the governors and other ranking officials of the region, as proposed by the Advisory Committee, will indeed be necessary.

Planning Commissions, local and regional, have a long history of ivory tower labors that too often result in plans that have little or no chance of implementation because the responsible officials of government are not involved. All the good intentions and professional competence in the world cannot make a politically sterile or impotent organization an effective force. The Commission will truly come to life when this is recognized.

Some Lessons From the 'Pros'

Professional politicians can learn several things from the results of Tuesday's primary election balloting.

One, made obvious in the returns from New Jersey's Democratic Party primary, is that the war in Viet Nam is indeed an issue in congressional voting—whenever anyone sets out to make it an issue.

A slate of Democratic Party "peace candidates" was defeated down the line by party regulars who supported President Johnson's conduct of the war as well as his continuing efforts to bring about a negotiated peace. The Viet Nam dissidents, who sought a U. S. Senate as well as several U. S. House nominations, fared badly—very badly—in the voting.

The lesson here, and one supported by previous primary contests, is that while the American voter may not be a Viet Nam "hawk," neither is he attracted by pleas for the unilateral withdrawal of U. S. troops, by demands for an immedi-

ate halt to all bombings or a cease-fire by South Viet Nam and its allies.

The other lesson, and this one is to be learned from the results in Minnesota, is the danger of "over packaging" a political product with bright-young-man wrappings.

Minnesota's Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party leaders decided more than a year ago that Governor Karl F. Rolvaag, 53, should be placed on the political scrap heap. Rolvaag, these leaders reasoned, lacked political "oomph" and had to be replaced by someone younger, more attractive. Thus, the Democratic-Farmer-Labor endorsement went to Lt. Gov. A. M. (Sandy) Keith, 37, who is in the Robert F. Kennedy image—including hair styling.

The party leaders figured everything—except voter reaction. A tremendous sympathy vote was generated for Rolvaag and carried him to renomination. It left the party leaders alone with their wrappings.

New Battle of Atlanta

Atlanta, Ga., is a part of the old South well worth the consideration of northerners. It has close to a half-million population. It is the hub of transportation in that quadrant of the country, as it was more than a century ago. It is also a town which seems really to believe that the Civil War was a long while ago, and that what has gone with the wind never blows back.

Atlanta, therefore, integrated its schools with much less strain than elsewhere in the Old Confederacy. This year there was violence as school resumed, because there are impassioned but senseless people in every city, and of every race. Atlanta's mayor, risking his neck quite literally, went through the streets of a Negro district reminding his fellow-Atlantans of their duty to uphold the law. An out-of-state Negro whom some would describe as a demagogue was arrested

for violation of a local law. But so was a white man accused of wanton shooting of an Atlanta Negro.

Both arrests make sense; the point being to uphold the law without partiality. This Atlanta seems to be attempting to do, much better than some of its backward sister towns such as Grenada, Miss., where naked white power seems to have the support of policemen who ought to be ashamed to wear a badge; where the crippling of children for the "sin" of being black appears to be the accepted code.

Atlanta is the place to look, for Atlanta is one of the most successful cities in the South. Its culture and industry, and its unusually articulate press have made it a leader. What Atlanta does in civil rights will be copied, though perhaps grudgingly. On the record so far, the vigorous city in the red hills deserves the mantle of leadership.

Twice Blessed

Kickoff might be a bad word for such things as the United Fund, since the last thing that happens is that anybody gets kicked. Everybody gets helped; contributions included.

figure was \$7.85 per person, while the Philadelphia average was \$4.90.

Since then we have done better. But what Mr. Seltzer had to say goes a long way to explain why Cleveland