

COUNTING UNITS

In the 1940's and 50's a popular saying among Georgia politicians was "What do you need to be elected Governor of Georgia? \$50,000 and Roy Harris." Harris had developed a reputation as a "king maker" among his cohort.

Roy Vincent Harris was born in 1895 and died in 1985. During his life he was a vigorous and effective advocate of segregation and education.

Mr. Harris entered Georgia politics in 1921 when he was elected to the Georgia house of representative; he served in the Senate for a period, then returned to the house where he served for two separate stints as Speaker.

After leaving government in 1946, Harris continued to work for the promotion of segregation and education. He accomplished much of his work for education as a member of the Board of Regents to which he was appointed in 1951. He obtained a new science building for the University of Georgia, his alma mater, and when there were complaints of favoritism, he did the same thing for Georgia Tech.

He remained on the Board until 1973, and while he maintained his attitude to racial integration, he also endeavored to uphold his belief in “separate but equal” by working as an advocate for “equality of accommodation” even though this rarely occurred.

Harris was a member of the Citizens Council of America and President of the Georgia chapter and the entire organization for a time. The Council was dedicated to “States Rights and Racial Integrity”. As leader he was credited with being the force behind Governor Orval Faubus’s opposition to the integration of the schools of Little Rock, Arkansas. Another outlet for Roy Harris’s views was The Augusta Courier, a newspaper he edited for 27.5 years from 1947 to 1974. As a 15 and 16 year old, I worked for this newspaper in distribution. By distribution I mean that every Friday several of my buddies and I folded the papers, slipped them into envelopes, ran an addressograph machine with the addresses of almost anyone in any town or village in Georgia, and then delivered the mail bags to the Post Office. I rarely paid any attention to the content of the paper, but I have a few examples of photos and articles I noticed after a friend of mine

told me they were racist. Like most 16 year olds I had very little interest in politics and concerned myself primarily with school, football, and girls, their relative importance fluctuating with hormonal changes.

So, why was Roy Vincent Harris so powerful in mid-century Georgia politics? The County Unit System!

A brief history of the County Unit system follows:

In 1777 the state legislature was apportioned by county. Two men from each county voted to elect the governor of the state until 1825 when the governor began to be elected by popular vote. As you may be aware, the Civil War brought about major changes to the way politics were done in the South. Rebel states had to meet two criteria to be readmitted to the Union: 1. Ratify the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the US Constitution, and 2. Approve a new state constitution. 1868 ended the popular election of the Governor and instituted the County Unit system which was to

be similar to the Electoral College in the US Constitution.

The plan allotted votes on a 3,2,1 basis: 8 largest counties got 6 votes each, 30 had 4, and over 100 counties had 2 each. This arrangement probably wasn't so bad in the 19th century; after all, in 1900 over 60% of the country's population lived in rural areas. By 1920, however, Atlanta/Fulton County had grown to the extent that a vote in Atlanta was worth much less than a vote in Echols County. By 1960 the relationship was really out of whack; a vote in Echols county, the smallest example, was worth 2 and ½ times a vote in Fulton. The system had been set up by Reconstruction Republicans, but starting in the 1870 Election. Democrats were the primary beneficiaries. Voting strength and political power favored small towns and rural communities, and elected incumbents controlled any changes. As more and more citizens moved to cities, their votes became worth less and less. New voters and blacks suffered in relation to rural whites.

An additional factor is that resulting from the Neil Primary Act in 1917, the Democratic Party and the state were for all practical purposes a single organization. The Democratic primary was all white and apportioned by the same 3,2,1 process as the electoral system, so the disenfranchisement of blacks and republicans was a foregone conclusion.

County Unit and similarly unbalanced systems were repeatedly challenged under the 14th Amendment but were consistently ruled against by courts not wanting to usurp states' sovereignty.

At long last, in 1962 the Supreme Court reversed a lower court in Tennessee, ruling that there had been invidious discrimination against Tennessee voters who had brought the suit *Charles W. Baker v. Joe C. Carr* and gave the lower court the responsibility to see that the Tennessee Constitution require that representation be based on a reasonable evaluation of population considering "one Man, one vote".

Georgia and 31 other states had suits filed in short order by urban dwellers who believed they had been discriminated against. In Georgia, the brief was filed within an hour of publication of the ruling. *Sanders v. Gray* and *Toombs v. Fortson* dealt with the apportionment in the Georgia House and Senate to eliminate the 3,2,1 system of apportionment. As the lawyers would say, "the Court has made new law".

Former Governor and then Senator Herman Talmadge opined, "For the U.S. Supreme Court to hold that the inaction of a state legislature on the question of apportionment is a litigable question is in direct violation of the Constitutional doctrine of separation of powers upon which our republican form of government is based. With three separate, independent and coordinate branches of government, it is beyond comprehension of anyone who has ever been exposed to a law book how a court at any level could compel a state legislature to take or not take action on any question".

Democratic party leader James Gray stated, "I don't see how a federal court could force the legislature into changing. If the legislature were to turn around and say 'No', What could the federal court do?"

Those statements, gentlemen, are what State's Rights was all about. Time marches on, and attitudes change; last election cycle Georgia almost elected a black female. There's still some play in the "good old boys" network I suppose, but Roy Harris must be turning over in his grave.

So, the Supreme Court declared county unit systems, which were based on the Electoral College, unconstitutional; why can't they just get rid of the College in a similar judicial manner? Well, the main problem is that the Electoral College is actually in the US Constitution, Article II, Section I. Bipartisan attempts to change the system were made in the 1950's and 1970's but failed to receive the 2/3's votes needed in Congress to be sent to the states for consideration.

The conversation regarding the College continues today with renewed vigor. In 2000, Hillary Clinton characterized the system, which some say, deprived Al Gore of the presidency, stating "In a democracy we should respect the will of the people, and to me, that means it's time to do away with the Electoral

College”. Former Attorney General and Obama “wing man” Eric Holder called it “a vestige of the past”, and Washington Governor Jay Inslee declared it an “archaic relic of a bygone age”.

In that bygone age, James Madison stated that he preferred popular election but recognized two legitimate concerns. First, people would tend toward supporting candidates from their own states, giving an advantage to larger states. Second, a few states with higher concentrations of voters might come to dominate. Madison thought that “there would be very little opportunity for cabal or corruption” in the Electoral College system.

A counter argument to the popular vote plan is to recognize that the College forces parties and candidates to forge broad coalitions. The desirability of avoiding regionalism and demographic population concentrations forces politicians to consider the preferences of a wide selection of citizen voters. Appealing exclusively or primarily to the voters of California, New York and Illinois will lead to an

unbalanced, and to many, an unsatisfactory approach to many policies.

The latest and current approach to doing away with the Electoral College is The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, or NPV. The NPV takes advantage of the flexibility afforded state legislatures in the Constitution: "Each State shall appoint as the legislature, thereof, may direct a Number of Electors". The original intent was to allow state legislators to determine how best to represent their state in presidential elections. The electors represent the state, not just the legislature, though the latter has the power to direct the manner of appointment.

The NPV argues that the state legislature may ignore their state's voters and appoint electors based on the national popular vote. No state would do this unilaterally, so NPV has a "trigger": it only takes effect if adopted by enough states to control 270 electoral votes; in other words, a majority that would control the outcome of presidential elections. After the 2018 elections, 14 states and the District of

Columbia had signed on for a total of 189 votes. NPV would have the same effect as abolishing the Electoral College. Candidates could win based on intense support from a narrow region or from big cities. Georgia might go as Atlanta goes; Indiana could go as Indianapolis, Gary and Bloomington vote. We might lose the state by state system designed by the framers for protection against regionalism and fraud. This would alter our politics in ways that we know, like shifting more power to urban centers, or in ways we don't know.

We've come a long way from the time when one man like Roy Harris could deliver a state governor election by controlling the votes of 100 counties. I wonder how far we'll go in this possible direction.

Tom Beattie

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THE AUGUSTA COURIER

Be Not Content With The Appearance of Things, But Look For The True Meaning

Vol. 2

THE AUGUSTA COURIER, APRIL 24, 1961, AUGUSTA, GA.

No. 710

Why Did The Politicians In Washington Deliberately Let Russia Become The World's Mightiest Military Power?

PEOPLE MUST PUT FIDDLING NEROES IN WASHINGTON OUT OF OFFICE IF THIS NATION IS TO HAVE ANOTHER FIGHTING CHANCE TO SURVIVE

Sociological Quacks, Political Eunuchs Need To Be Driven From Federal Power

The Neroes in Washington still fiddle while the Russians orbit a man around the world in space two or three times and then bring him back home safely to his family.

STRICTLY PERSONAL

By ROY V. HARRIS

It is difficult for most people to understand what is happening in the world today.

It is very difficult for most people to see or interpret the movements afoot in the United States today.

I may not be able to do so, but I do believe that I have a clearer perception of the trends of the times than some people.

Congressman Dies Told About Soviet Might 13 Years Ago; Texan Angered FDR

Russia is the most powerful country on earth.

This we must concede and the concession leaves us stunned, puzzled and worried.

THE AUGUSTA COURIER, APRIL 24, 1961

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Federal Aid To Education Means Control Of Schoolhouses

Redskins' Football Team Told To Hire Negro Player, Or Can't Use Stadium

Federal aid to education means federal control of schools and schoolhouses. The best illustration of this is the recent notice by the Secretary of the Interior that the Washington Redskins football team must hire some Negroes or else they can't play in the new District Stadium which has been leased to the Redskins during the coming football season.

In speaking of this situation, THE AUGUSTA CHRONICLE recently had this to say:

The Washington Redskins professional football team and its owner, George Preston Marshall, are in trouble with the new administration.

Stewart Udall, the boyish-looking Interior Secretary, has discovered that the Redskins are not Redskins, at all (if they were, they'd have to be shipped off to the nearest reservation), but are all Whiteskins. But it's not the nickname misnomer that's got Udall worried. It's the absence of Blackskins.

In a letter to Marshall Friday, Udall bluntly warned that the Redskins will be expected to hire some Negroes to play in the new District Stadium.

The stadium, owned by the federal government's National Park Service, has been leased for Redskins use each fall for 30 years, beginning this year. Udall says the anti-discrimination clause in the lease contract to mean the Washington team, whose players are all white, must re-align its roster to include Negro players.

He didn't specify the number of Negroes that are to replace white members of the team, but maybe the administration can get Congress to pass a law establishing a proper racial ratio to be maintained—and to heck with football ability.

STRICTLY PERSONAL

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He is opposed to integration. He advocates black supremacy and as an immediate goal is asking that several states be set aside to the Negroes where they may live and rule as they see fit.

Unless we do this, Elijah Muhammad boasts that whites in the United States will be overthrown by 1970.

That's just nine years away.

This militant leader of this new sect boastfully proclaims that white rule will be no more in just nine short years.

Muhammad explains this by saying that the white nations will have destroyed themselves by 1970.

The velocity at which the Western nations are rushing towards destruction might be just grounds for Elijah's boast.

Tensions are building up. The cold war becomes more intense. The competition between the United States and Russia gathers momentum. We are rushing headlong into a more intense cold war or into a head-on, hot shooting war.

A few years ago, we were contesting to keep China out of the hands of the Communists. But China, with its hundreds of millions of people, joined the Communist conspiracy.

Just a few weeks ago Cuba, only ninety miles from the shores of the United States, went headlong into the Communist organization.

For months, we have been concerned about the Congo and yet, the Congolese are heading towards the Communists.

And now it is Laos. The Chinese Communists are threatening to move in their armies. The Russians are flying guns, ammunition and supplies to the Communists in Laos.

The Communists are gaining ground in Laos every day.

If Laos falls to the Communists, then there will be Vietnam and Thailand to follow.

With heavy, crunching strides, the Communists continue to make progress.

And all the time, we continue to oppose.

Some of these days, these two movements will be forced to meet.

Will it be in a nuclear war?

Will the missiles and the hydrogen bombs be flying in every direction and whole cities be destroyed?

Or, like creeping paralysis, will Communism continue to creep upon us until we are completely encircled and, after that, until they have completely infiltrated every organization and institution in the United States and we fall like a ripe tomato from the vine?

One of these two things is bound to happen.

We can't continue to win the cold war by continuous conversation and by throwing our money away all over the world.

We can't make or buy friends with conversation and money.

Sociological Quacks, Political Eunuchs Need To Be Driven From Federal Power

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many, along with the rest of Eastern Europe.

Our Neroes in the State Department gave over four hundred million Chinese to the Russian Communists. They sided with the Communists and aided them to oust Chiang Kaishek. Their alibi was that the Chinese Communists were not Communists but they were just honest, hard-working people interested in agrarian reform.

Then Came Korea, Cuba

When the time came they turned out to be Communists.

The same thing happened in Korea. They let the Communists get control of most of Korea. And then, when Castro, of the famous beard, started out in Cuba, our Neroes helped him. When the point was raised that Castro was a Communist, they pictured him as a great saviour trying to uplift the people of Cuba and to get rid of the Batista crowd.

When it was over, we found that Castro was nothing but a Communist and Cuba ran behind the Communist Iron Curtain.

They Fiddled On And On

And now, 80 miles from the shores of the United States, the Russians have a Communist foothold in Cuba.

Our Neroes have fiddled and helped the Communists in the Congo. It now looks as if there will be a Communist victory there.

The same thing is happening in Laos and Laos will soon be a member of the Communist group of nations.

We permitted the Russians to go into Germany and move their industries and their scientists to Russia and put them to work in the field of atomic energy and in space.

We have known for years that the

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THE AUGUSTA COURIER



Be Not Content With The Appearance of Things, But Look For The True Meaning

Vol. 2

THE AUGUSTA COURIER, JUNE 17, 1963, AUGUSTA, GA.

No. 819

Kennedys Frantically Plot To Induce Negroes To Confine Rioting To South People Of South Owe Governor Wallace Debt Of Gratitude; Alabama's Chief Executive Refuses To Bow To Kennedy Boys

Vote-Mad Brothers Would Turn State Into Another Crime Ridden Washington

The people of the South owe Governor George C. Wallace an everlasting debt of gratitude.

They owe it to him because he has not surrendered nor folded up and quit in his fight to keep the State of Alabama decent. Governor Wallace knows that if he surrenders to the race-mixing crowd, that Alabama will soon witness the same conditions as exist in Washington, D. C. A wave of crime always follows race-mixing, and in the Nation's capital today we find the most terrible conditions found anywhere in the nation.

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Members of Congress advise their people to stay off the streets of Washington at night when they come to the capital city. We have been told that a woman is not safe in her own home in the middle of the day with the doors locked in the Nation's capital. White people are the victims of murder, rape, robbery, and mugging almost every day.

Fight For Decency

It is to keep these conditions out of Alabama, that prompts Governor Wallace to make his determined stand. He, of course, knows that it is impossible for him alone to defy the United States Government. He knows, however, that to surrender would turn the flood gates loose. So, he has determined to resist to the very last minute and slow the process of race-mixing just as much as is possible.

This example on his part is a great service to the people of the South and he is entitled to their gratitude.

Governor Wallace

The New York Times on May 14, 1963 had this to say about Governor Wallace:

George Corley Wallace, Governor of Alabama, does not drink, scorns luxurious living, and prides himself on his moral character. The racial problems in Alabama, he says, quite simply are the fault of Negroes.

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STRICTLY PERSONAL

By ROY V. HARRIS

What fools we mortals be!

The people of this nation have made fools of themselves on several occasions but, if they follow the lead of the President of the United States in his new Civil Rights program, we will be bigger fools than we have ever been.

The Negro leaders have suddenly discovered that there is more segregation in the Northern cities today than there was eight years ago, and that race-mixing in the South is traveling at a very slow snail's pace.

The best the race-mixers have been able to do is just a little bit of token integration in a few of the cities of the South.

When this discovery was made, the Negro leaders went into a frenzy. They called on the President. They put on all the pressure they could. They demanded that the Government take over where they have failed and do something now.

And, openly and suddenly, they announced to the President that if he didn't do something, that the Negro would break out into violence.

Instead of meeting this threat of violence, the President meekly surrendered and has come up with a new Civil Rights program.

He now proposes that Congress give him the authority to take the federal judges, the federal marshals, and the armed forces of the United States and ram race-mixing down the throats of the white people against their wishes.

The President is taking a big gamble, based on the idea that the white people haven't got the guts to resist, that they will still vote Democratic and that this desperate action is necessary to hold the Negro bloc vote in the columns of the Democratic Party.

Now the Republican Party is acting crazier even than Kennedy and the Democratic leadership.

They know that the Republicans will not be able to get the Negro vote; they didn't the last time and they will not the next time. Yet, the Republicans are trying to outdo Kennedy in a bid for the Negro vote.

Now this position on the part of the Republicans is just about as intelligent as their leadership has been in recent years.

They tried to run a campaign in 1960 without using any intelligence and they gave away the presidency. Now this time they are being more foolish and the election returns of 1964 will prove the Republican leadership to be more than foolish.

The leadership of both political parties have worked themselves up into an emotional frenzy and have simply gone just as crazy as bedbugs.

This isn't the first time the people of this nation have been led into an emotional frenzy by the leaders of their churches and their political parties.

We have an exact parallel in the adoption of the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution and the era of prohibition which followed its adoption.

Recently writing on this subject, David Lawrence, in one of his columns had this to say:

"HISTORY often repeats itself. It may take five or ten years more to reach a climax in the constitutional controversy now sweeping the country. But a climax is inevitable. It is usually brought on, not by the opponents but by the proponents of what seems to them a worthy cause.

The nation today is apprehensive about the Negro-white conflicts reported in every part of the country. Many people are anxiously wonder-

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Civil Rights Bill Diversionary Plan To Get North's Vote For Brothers In '64

The Kennedy Administration is trying desperately to divert the activities of Negro organizations from the segregated North to the segregated South.

The reason for this is very simple. They are in trouble in the North. They have presumed that the Negro is satisfied with the Negro integration in the North and now they discover that the Negro is not satisfied with the situation in the Northern cities.

Consequently, the race problem is moving North.

The Negro has disclaimed "token integration," and is demanding immediate and full integration in the Northern cities. Trouble has flared up in Philadelphia, Baltimore, New York, Detroit, St. Louis, Chicago and Boston.

Plot of The Kennedys
Edwin C. Berry, Director of the Urban League in Chicago, recently said:

"Chicagoans are sitting on a tinderbox."

Adam Clayton Powell, the Negro Congressman from New York, in a speech delivered on May 3, 1963, predicted that Washington, D. C. is going to be the scene of one of the worst riots in the history of America unless something is done to ease the tension.

So, the Kennedy boys have come up with their diversionary strategy. They hope to turn the attention of the Negroes back to the South to avoid dangerous riots in the North.

Anything To Get Votes
Recently, to keep the Negro votes, they are proposing a new Civil Rights Bill to be enacted by Congress.

They propose:

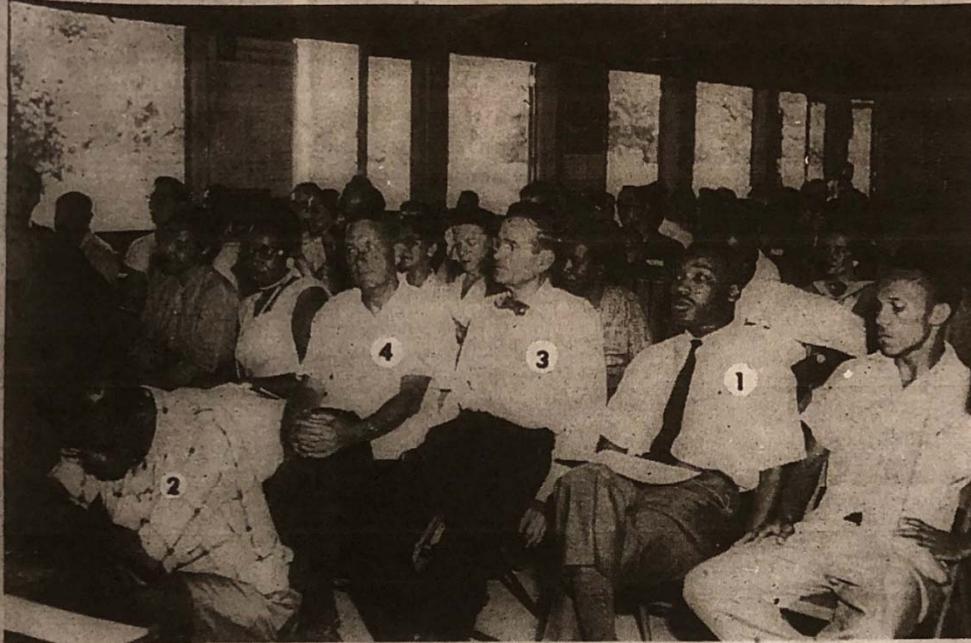
1. To pass a bill through Congress outlawing segregation in hotels, restaurants, parks, swimming pools, theaters and every other place where people go.

2. To pass a bill authorizing the Attorney General to go into the Federal Courts to force restaurants, stores, hotels, motels and every other place of business to integrate.

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ARE YOU GOING TO SURRENDER TO THE LEFTWINGERS?

MARTIN LUTHER KING....AT COMMUNIST TRAINING SCHOOL



PICTURED (FOREGROUND),

- (1) MARTIN LUTHER KING OF THE MONTGOMERY BOYCOTT AND THE BIRMINGHAM RIOTS, BACKED UP BY THE KENNEDYS;
- (2) ABNER W. BERRY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY;
- (3) AUBREY WILLIAMS, PRES. OF THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE EDUCATION FUND, INC., THE TRANSMISSION BELT IN THE SOUTH FOR THE COMMUNIST PARTY;
- (4) MYLES HORTON, DIRECTOR OF HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL FOR COMMUNIST TRAINING, MONTEAGLE, TENN.

THESE "FOUR HORSEMEN" OF RACIAL AGITATION HAVE BROUGHT TENSION, DISTURBANCE, STRIFE AND VIOLENCE IN THEIR ADVANCEMENT OF THE COMMUNIST DOCTRINE OF "RACIAL NATIONALISM."

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