

The Voice

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

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EDITORIALS

The views expressed in these columns are those of the writer and not necessarily a reflection of the policy of The Voice.—Pub.

Wherry

(Continued from Page 1)

vote of the senators who are present.

LINCOLN PARTY REFUSED

"Today's vote in the senate shows that the republican party is the party of the great emancipator Abraham Lincoln, and that the republican party is the only agency through which equal opportunity for legislation of this kind can be guaranteed to the voters of the United States of America."

In the face of this G.O.P. denunciation, democrats gave ground and it was almost pathetic to see Truman's man "Friday"—Senator Scott Lucas of Illinois—admit that "the democratic party has always been split upon the subject of civil rights."

Mixed emotions were evident, perhaps those that occasionally bring about drastic political realignments, as Lucas admitted a simple, confusing, disgusting truth to those Negroes who for eighteen years have been allied with a party, which is unable to pass legislation in their behalf, although continually accepting and seeking their votes.

SOUTHERNERS DOMINATE

"I do not think there is anyone," said Lucas tragically, "whether he be a democrat or a republican, who does not believe that the senators who come from the south have a very deep conviction and take a very tenacious position with respect to the issues which are involved in the proposed (FEPC) legislation."

There it was: there was, finally the admission from the Truman administration to Negroes that the south was in the saddle. That is could and would rule this nation when civil rights was about to unfold as a law of the land.

And even though Mr. Lucas promised he would continue the battle despite the setback, the FEPC bill appears today to be dead as far as the Eighty-first congress is concerned.

Senator Lucas indicated that he is willing to lay aside the FEPC motion from time to time to clear the way for other legislation until he is ready to make another test of the cloture rule. He did not set a definite time for the next attempt.

You can do very little with faith, but you can do nothing without it.—Samuel Butler.

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by **JAMES C. OLSON**, Superintendent STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY Nebraska Governors.

William A. Poynter, governor of Nebraska from 1899 to 1901, was one of two men elected to the post of chief executive as the result of fusion between the Populists and Democrats. (The other was Silas A. Holcomb, whose career I discussed in an earlier column.)

Governor Poynter was born at Eureka, Illinois, May 29, 1848, the son of a pioneer minister. After graduating from Eureka College, he taught school for a few years, and then went into the grocery and hardware business. He emigrated in Nebraska in 1879, purchasing a farm near Albion in Boone County.

Like many another Nebraska pioneer, William Poynter took an active part in politics almost from the date of his arrival. He was one of the organizers of the Farmers Alliance, and in 1884 he was elected to the state house of representatives, the only Independent in the body.

The so-called "Populist Revolution" of 1890 put Mr. Poynter in the state senate. He had enough friends in this session to result in his election as president pro-tem of the senate. He took an active part in fusion politics during the 1890s. The Populists nominated him as their candidate for congress from the Third district in 1892, but he was defeated by Republican George D. Meiklejohn.

Fusion among the Populists, Democrats and Silver Republicans resulted in Poynter's elevation to the governor's office in 1898. The contest was close, though, and he defeated Monroe L. Hayward, the Republican candidate from Otoe County, by a margin of about 2,700 votes.

Though they had elected their state ticket, the fusionists lost the legislature, and Governor Poynter had a hostile majority against him in both houses. As a result, he was able to get very little of his program, concerned primarily with railroad regulation, enacted. It was during Governor Poynter's administration that the present governor's mansion, located just

south of the capitol, was purchased.

Governor Poynter was renominated by the fusion interests in 1900, but was defeated by Charles H. Dietrich.

Governor Poynter always was interested in agricultural development. He was one of the organizers of the Boone County Agricultural Society, and served for a number of years as a member of the state board of agriculture.

Following his defeat, he continued to make his home in Lincoln, where he took an active part in public affairs. He died suddenly, April 5, 1909, in the Governor's office, where he had gone as the head of a delegation to urge Governor Shallenberger to sign the much discussed "daylight saloon bill."

Death Takes W. B. Millson

William B. Millson of 2137 So. 48th, nephew of the late William Jennings Bryan, died Monday after an illness of three weeks. He had lived there more than 40 years.

Until his illness, Mr. Millson was still active in the U. S. department of internal revenue where he had served for 17 years.

Born in Salem, Ill., he moved to Lincoln where he attended Nebraska Wesleyan. Mr. Millson lived for a while in Twin Falls, Ida.

For approximately 12 years around the turn of the century Mr. Millson farmed land belonging to Mr. Bryan.

He was a member of the Elks. A son, Maj. Francis Millson, died in Washington, D. C., in 1945.

Surviving are a sister, Mrs. Laura Spangler, and an aunt, Mrs. T. S. Allen, both of Lincoln.

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Chas. M. Johnson Dies In Los Angeles Hospital

Charles M. Johnson, 68, of 10923 So. San Pedro St., in Los Angeles, California, died in a hospital there Thursday, May 25, after a long illness. He had lived there since leaving Lincoln in 1940.

Mr. Johnson was born in Austin, Texas and lived there until he came to Lincoln at the age of 19. For a number of years he was an employee of the Burlington railroad. He also worked at the old Grand Hotel for 15 years. He was a member of Mt. Zion Baptist church and the Masonic lodge.

Surviving are his wife, Bertha; a son, Charles; two daughters, Mrs. Imogene Winters, Lincoln and Mrs. Verda Rayon of California. One brother and three sisters, all living in Texas. Services were held in Los Angeles.

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