

# The Voice

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

"Dedicated to the promotion of the cultural, social and spiritual life of a great people"

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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.

## No! YOU Shouldn't Vote—If!

By Charles Goolsby

Recently, in Eastern Germany, an election was held in which over 90 percent of the eligible "voters" cast ballots. Of course there was no place on the lists of printed names for the individual to show his disapproval of any of the people, nor of any of the practices, nor of any of the treatments which the East Germans have been receiving at the hands of communist government there. However, it is not accurate to say that they did not have a choice because they had two of them—They could either vote "yes" (under the coercion of red star bayonets) or they could refuse to vote at all (and be herded off to Siberian labor camps under the coercion of red star bayonets).

Now, here in America, we don't believe that such things are possible, so if 10 or 15 percent of the voters register and then turn up at the polls, we think that's pretty good. We usually assume that somebody else will vote like us so we don't need to. Some of these days we will find that the people who were elected because we didn't vote will have us yoked by things we don't like. Now editors are always trying to get people to do things, like registering before Friday night, October 28, and as a result their editorials on the subject go unread. That's why I decided that you people who are 21 and over and don't vote might like a few more excuses to add to your list of "bona fide" reasons why you will refuse (1) to register before Friday night and then (2) to vote on Nov. 7:

1. If you are an American citizen but don't care to be.
  2. If you don't think you ought to have anything to say about roads, taxes, or the people who make the laws that the sheriff and the corner cop enforce.
  3. If you don't believe in Democracy or don't care for liberty.
  4. If you think we ought to call out the State Guard to either force you to vote or to ship you to a God-forsaken concentration camp like the Russian communists do.
  5. If you are opposed to good government. (After all, if you vote for good public officials, you get good government); or
  6. If you don't think you're as good as the next person.
- If you agree with any of these reasons, you can feel quite justified in staying away from the democratic, secret ballots of the American polls. If you don't think they are such hot ideas, I'll know it by the election totals.

**'Scottsboro Boy Novel True'—Governor TUSCALOOSA.**—"There will be no more 'Scottsboro Boys' written about Alabama's prisons," Governor-nominate Gordon Persons told members of the Alabama Broadcasters Association meeting here last week. Promising to clean up the prison system, he told his listeners that the charges in Haywood Patterson's novel about the state's prison system were true.



by JAMES C. OLSON, Superintendent STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Alexander Majors, sparkplug of the famous freighting firm of Russell, Majors and Waddell, probably is best known as a man who could issue an edict against "swearing, gambling, and intemperance," and make it stick even among a motley assortment of bull-whackers, traditionally among the toughest characters on the plains.

It is not so generally known that he was an administrator of exceptional ability and that much of the spectacular success enjoyed by his firm was due to the skill with which he managed its freighting caravans.

In his autobiography, *Seventy Years on the Frontier*, Majors devotes a chapter to the management of an overland train. Reading it gives one an inkling as to why his firm stood pre-eminent in the overland freighting business out of Nebraska City and Leavenworth.

He was convinced of the superiority of oxen as freighting animals. "Oxen proved to be the cheapest and most reliable teams for long trips, where they had to live upon the grass," he wrote. "They did good daily work, gathered their own living, and if properly driven would travel 2,000 miles in a season, or during the months from April to November; traveling from 1,000 to 1,200 miles with the loaded wagons, and with plenty of good grass and water, would make the return trip with the empty wagons in the same season."

Even more important was the skill and discipline of the teamsters. Unlike many freighters, Majors did not leave the management of the train solely to the direction of the master. He drew up and printed a set of "Rules and Regulations" for the conduct of a wagon train. They were distributed among the men and it was expected that they would be strictly observed. It was in these that the famed injunction against "swearing, gambling, and intemperance" appeared.

Though some of the bullwhackers must have chafed under the rigid discipline, Majors was satisfied that his system produced the desired results. He records in his autobiography, for example, that his men could yoke six pairs of oxen and have them hitched to the wagon and ready to move in

### Selected from 300

A.N.P.—Birmingham born and Telladega educated John Rhoden, student of sculptor of Columbia university, was among the 19 students selected from over 300 candidates for the \$1,000 Tiffany Foundation fund for 1950. The sculptor is a veteran of World War II and a protege of Richmond Barthe. Rhoden expects to study in Italy.

16 minutes—a job that often took undisciplined teamsters almost an hour.

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### LEGAL NOTICE OF MEASURE TO BE VOTED UPON NOVEMBER 7, 1950 (BALLOT TITLE) CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY 1949 LEGISLATURE

For amendment of sections 6 and 7, Article III, of the Constitution of Nebraska, providing for either annual or biennial sessions of the Legislature, providing restrictions on business that may be transacted by the Legislature in even-numbered years, providing for election of members of the Legislature for four-year terms, and providing for payment of compensation to members of the Legislature as may be provided by law. □

Against amendment of sections 6 and 7, Article III, of the Constitution of Nebraska, providing for either annual or biennial sessions of the Legislature, providing restrictions on business that may be transacted by the Legislature in even-numbered years, providing for election of members of the Legislature for four-year terms, and providing for payment of compensation to members of the Legislature as may be provided by law. □

### TEXT OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS TO BE ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA.

Section 1. That at the general election in November, 1950, there shall be submitted to the electors of the State of Nebraska, for approval, the following amendments to sections 6 and 7, Article III, of the Constitution of Nebraska, which are hereby proposed by the Legislature.

"Sec. 6. The Legislature shall consist of not more than fifty nor less than thirty members. The sessions of the Legislature shall be annual or biennial as provided by law. If the sessions are held annually, in even-numbered years the Legislature shall not transact any business except to provide appropriations for the expenses of government and to confirm appointments unless specifically requested to do so by message of the Governor.

Sec. 7. At the general election held in November, 1952, there shall be elected such number of members of the Legislature as may be provided by law from even-numbered districts for a term of two years, and such number of members of the Legislature as may be provided by law from odd-numbered districts for a term of four years. Thereafter at each general election, successors of members whose terms expire in January following shall be elected for a term of four years. All terms shall begin at noon on the first Tuesday in January next ensuing the

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general election at which the member shall be elected. Each member shall be nominated and elected in a nonpartisan manner and without any indication on the ballot that he is affiliated with or endorsed by any political party or organization. The aggregate salaries of all the members shall be determined by the Legislature and payable in such manner and at such times as shall be provided by law. In addition to his salary, each member shall receive and be paid an amount equal to his actual expenses in traveling by the most usual route once to and returning from each regular or special session of the Legislature. Members of the Legislature shall receive no pay nor perquisites other than said salary and expenses. Employees of the Legislature shall receive no compensation other than their salary or per diem."

Sec. 2. That the proposed amendments shall be submitted to the electors upon a ballot separate from that upon which the names of candidates appear, after publication once each week for four weeks in at least one legal newspaper in each county where a newspaper is published immediately preceding the general election in 1950. The ballot for the submission of the proposed amendments shall be as follows:

### "Proposed Constitutional Amendments"

For amendment of sections 6 and 7, Article III, of the Constitution of Nebraska, providing for either annual or biennial sessions of the Legislature, providing restrictions on business that may be transacted by the Legislature in even-numbered years, providing for election of members of the Legislature for four-year terms, and providing for payment of compensation to members of the Legislature as may be provided by law. □

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Sec. 3. That the proposed amendments, if adopted, shall be in force and take effect immediately upon completion of the canvass of the votes, at which time it shall be the duty of the Governor to proclaim the amendments adopted as a part of the Constitution of Nebraska.  
Approved May 28, 1949  
Respectfully submitted,  
FRANK MARSEL,  
Secretary of State

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